MASTER PLAN

September, 1990

for Garibaldi Provincial Park

BC Parks

Ministry of Parks
Hon. Ivan Messmer
Minister

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Prepared by

South Coast Region

North Vancouver, B.C.

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GARIBALDI

PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 1990

RECOMMENDED: _____ DATE: Sept 4, 1990
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GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

1.0 PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Park Boundary has been legislated
- About 75% of the park will be nature conservancy
- Mount Currie and Billy Goat Creek will be studied as park additions
- Trails will be upgraded and expanded
- Vegetation Management Plan will be prepared
- Aircraft access will be managed by restricting landing and by volunteer overflight guidelines
- Spearhead Route will be studied in detail
- Heli-skiing will be restricted to the existing permit
- Mountain biking facilities and education program are proposed
- Wildlife Management Plan will be prepared

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Plan Purpose

The purpose of this master plan is to guide the expansion of backcountry recreational opportunities and the protection of the Lower Mainland's most important wilderness.

The key issues that need to be addressed include the following:

Role of the Park:

Although wilderness has been the traditional role of the park, the increase demands for expanded development and a dwindling supply of unprotected wilderness suggests a re-evaluation.

Legislating Boundary:

This action is taken to maximize statutory protection of the park but could hinder to some degree boundary deletions.

Proposed Additions:

Two areas adjacent to the park; Mount Currie and Billy Goat Creek, that are currently included in the Soo Provincial Forest are proposed as potential additions to Garibaldi Park.

Level of Development/Services:

Increase in recreational opportunities and services are desired but retaining undeveloped wilderness opportunities is also an important objective.

2.2 Background Summary

Garibaldi Provincial Park covers about 194,000 hectares of the Coastal Mountains. It represents and conserves the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape. This landscape is characterized by high jagged, ice-blanketed peaks above steep-sided, forested mountain slopes which plunge to u-shaped valleys at relatively low elevations. The climate is typical of the West Coast being determined by the eastern movement of moisture laden air resulting in high precipitation and mild temperatures.

There are numerous outstanding provincial and nationally significant outdoor recreation features including unique glacial/volcanic peaks such as the Black Tusk and Table mountain and expansive alpine meadow.

Garibaldi offers a wide array of hiking/backpacking, rock climbing and ski touring recreational opportunities that range from short duration day trips to multi-day wilderness excursions. The park is the most heavily used backcountry area in the BC Parks System.

The park has a long history of association with outdoor recreation clubs who were the impetus behind the designation of the park and who continue to play an active role in assisting park management.

3.0 THE ROLE OF THE PARK

3.1 Regional and Provincial Context (Figure 1)

Garibaldi Provincial Park is situated in the Coastal Mountains of Southwestern British Columbia, 75 kilometres north of the City of Vancouver.

With the Greater Vancouver area of some 1.5 million people in such close proximity less than an hour's drive away, Garibaldi Provincial Park is one of the most easily accessible wilderness areas in the world.

Access to the western half of the park is provided by Highway 99, while the isolated eastern half is accessible by forestry roads. Winter access by air is available but only for heli-skiing.

Highway 99 extends to the Canada-US Border and is the main route visitors from Seattle and other Americans use when entering British Columbia. The portion of the highway north of Vancouver is in itself a significant source of recreational opportunities. Popular as a scenic drive, the highway corridor has a number of provincial parks, private resorts and several points of interest.

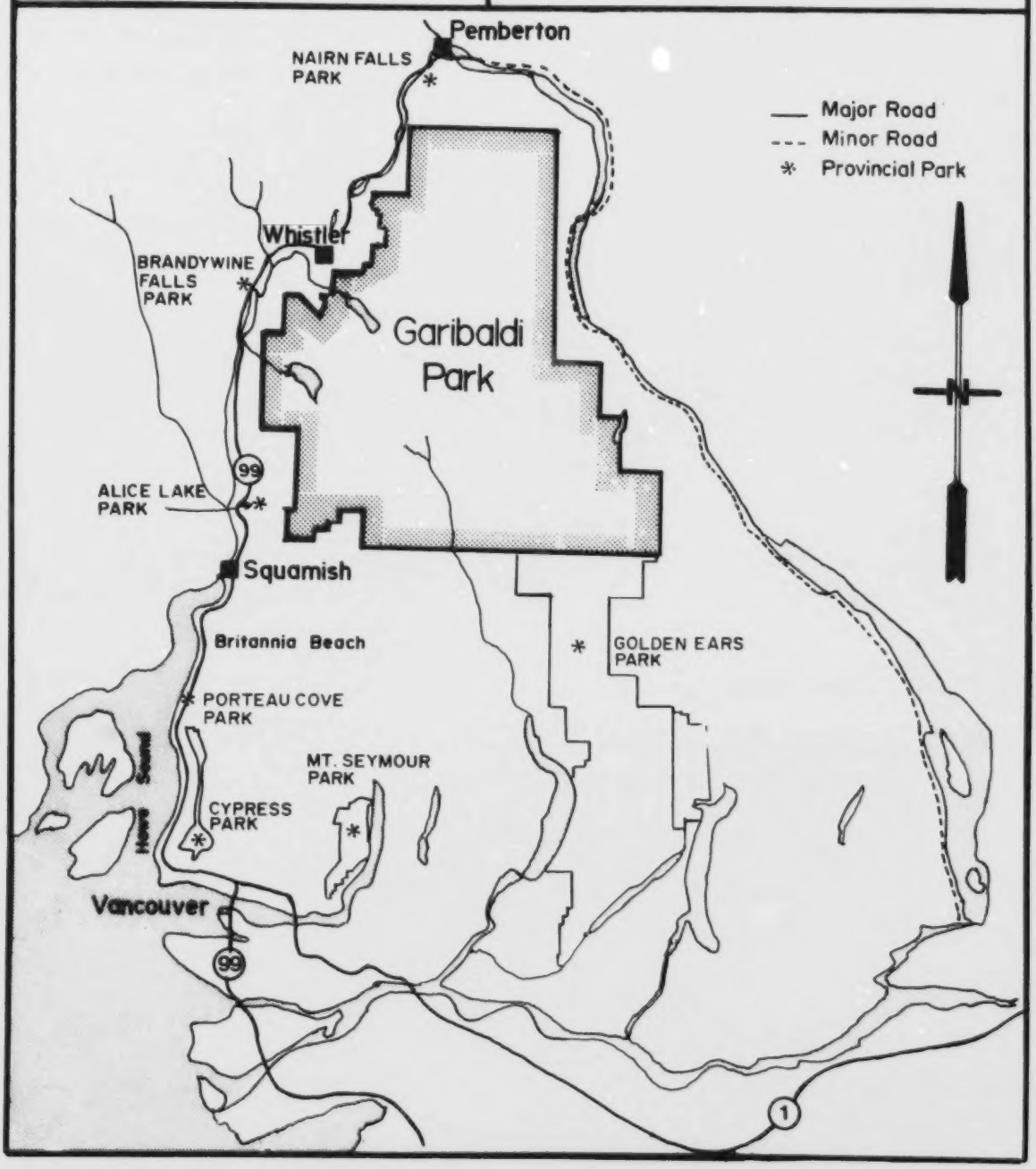
The communities in the immediate vicinity of the park; Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton, provide full services and facilities to visitors including, food, fuel, shopping, entertainment, accommodations and medical services. As Whistler has become a year round international destination area, its influence on Garibaldi Park has substantially increased. The recent expansion of ski lifts to the very height and edge of the park has dramatically made the alpine environment virtually accessible to large numbers of visitors including seniors and the disabled. In addition, the popularity of aircraft access over and in the vicinity of the park has affected the enjoyment of wilderness for many visitors.

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

10 0 10 20 30 Km

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Figure 1



Other regional factors that indirectly affect the park include the extensive resource harvesting in the adjacent mountains. While park resources are not impacted, views in the park are adversely affected.

3.2 Conservation Role

In keeping with the goals of the Parks system (Appendix II), the main conservation roles of Garibaldi Park are:

- **to represent the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape;**
- **to preserve the landscapes's special and representative features.**

From the mountain peaks and valleys to the glaciers, ice caves, cinder cones and subalpine meadows, it is important to retain these provincially significant features in a natural state for their recreational enjoyment and their educational and scientific benefits.

3.3 Recreation Role

Garibaldi Park serves two of the three Parks system recreation goals. Its recreation role is, twofold, first:

- **to provide the highest quality destination mountain wilderness opportunities in southwestern British Columbia**

The outstanding mountain features and opportunities of the park, combined with its close association with Whistler Resort and proximity to Vancouver, make Garibaldi one of the most popular backcountry destinations in the Pacific Southwest. Its destination opportunities include a subalpine/alpine wilderness which provides a variety of day hiking, climbing and backpacking opportunities in the summer while, in winter, outstanding day and overnight backcountry skiing opportunities are available.

Access improvements and expansion of support services, created by the development of Whistler as an international, four-season destination resort, have substantially increase awareness of the park and have made its opportunities available to a wider range of visitors. The second recreation role is:

- **to provide a variety of alpine recreation experiences to serve the needs for regional recreation.**

Unlike any other provincial park in southwest British Columbia, Garibaldi Park is the last vestige of untouched protected wilderness within a few hours' drive of Vancouver. *Its features constitute the singularly most significant protected wilderness in the Lower Mainland.* Consequently, its recreation opportunities, highly valued by British Columbians and visitors, substantially contribute to the development of regional tourism while addressing the needs for resident recreation. Given the absence of any equally significant areas and the likelihood of continued resource development and urban growth in the region, the value of this wilderness will continue to grow in future years.

4.0 ZONING

Garibaldi Park is divided into four zones: Wilderness Conservation Zone and Natural Environment Zone; Special Features Zone and Intensive Recreation Zone (Figure 2).

Wilderness Conservation Zone *

The Wildness Conservation Zone reflects, in boundary and in park uses, the nature conservancy area. The objective of the zone is to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment. They are characterized by very low use, no facilities or hunting, non-mechanized access and large natural areas free of any evidence of modern man. Management is oriented to protecting a pristine environment.

Approximately 145,500 hectares of the park fall into this zone.

Natural Environment Zone

The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. Though characterized by low-to-moderate use, this zone precludes any sense of wilderness isolation. Facilities are moderately developed with trails, walk-in campsites and shelters.

The environment of this zone will be less pristine than that available in a Wilderness Conservation Zone. The main management concern will be to keep use impacts below levels that will impair park resources or significantly reduce user satisfaction while encouraging backcountry use for visitors.

Approximately 49,000 hectares fall into this zone.

* As a result of changes in the provincial park zoning policy, the name of this zone was changed from Nature Conservancy Zone.

Special Features Zone *

The objective of this zone is to preserve and present significant natural or cultural resources, features, or processes because of their special character, fragility or heritage value. Management is oriented towards maintaining a high quality recreational and interpretive experience with interpretive facilities provided.

This zone includes the Black Tusk, Table and Taylor Meadows, Cheakamus River, Red Heather Ridge and Singing Pass areas.

Approximately 3200 hectares fall into this zone.

Intensive Recreation Zone *

The objective of this zone is to provide concentrations of high use visitor services and facilities. In Garibaldi Park, this zone, some 300 hectares in area, is restricted to both the Diamond Head and Black Tusk road and parking areas.

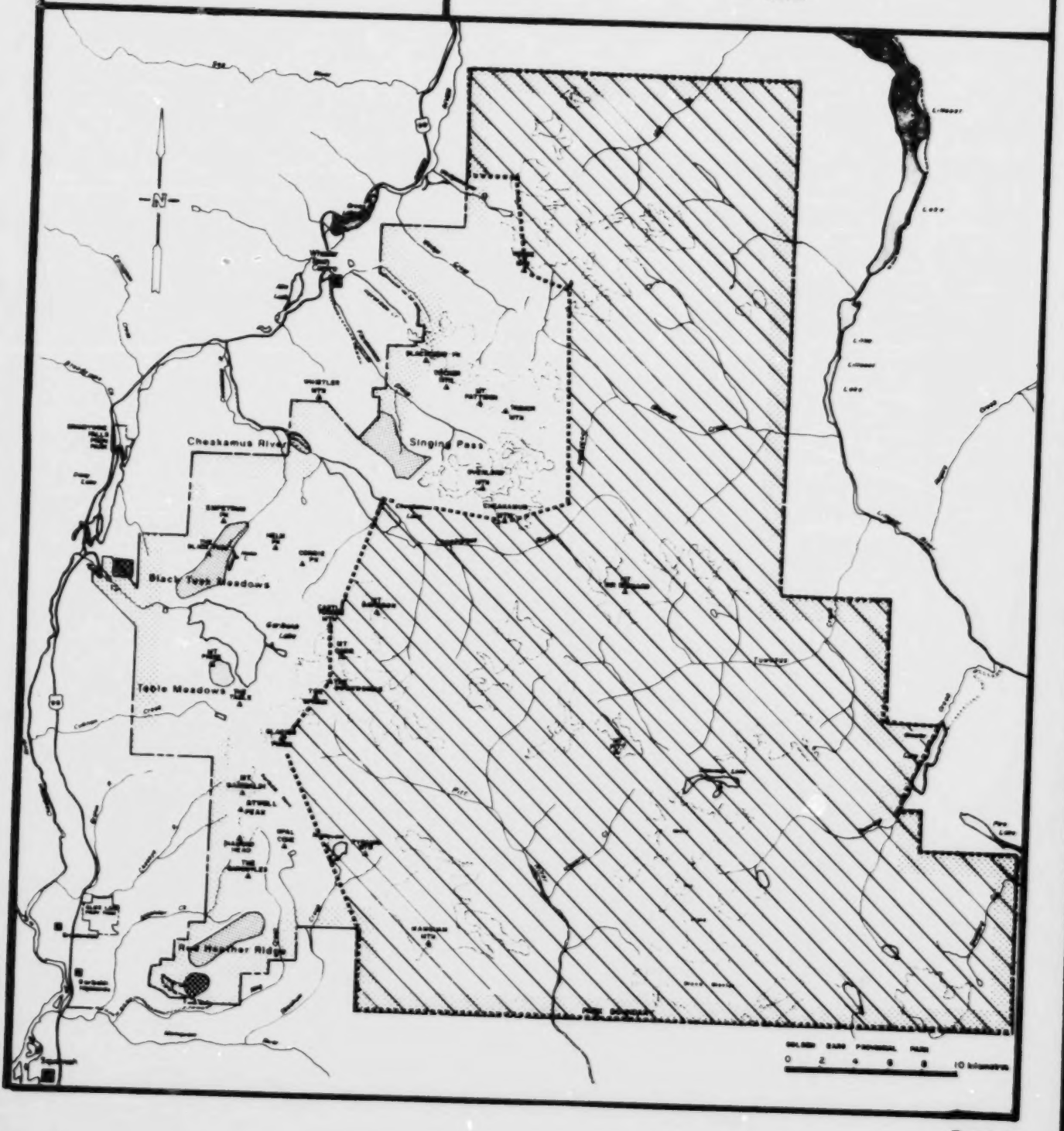
* As a result of a change in the provincial park zoning policy, the name of these zones was changed from Special Features Subzone and Development Subzone respectively.

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK Figure 2

ZONING MAP

LEGEND

- WILDERNESS CONSERVATION ZONE
- INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONE
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE
- SPECIAL FEATURE ZONE



5.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The overall management of natural and cultural resources will be based upon the ***Park Act***, Park Regulations, ministry policies and the role of Garibaldi Park in the overall system of provincial parks and recreation areas in British Columbia.

The resource management objective in the park is to ensure that the Ministry of Parks' goals are met by:

- protecting Garibaldi's representative natural environments and recreation resources;
- allowing only appropriate types and levels of recreation uses;
- monitoring use impacts and resource conditions so that appropriate actions may be taken;
- establishing resource guidelines that will protect Garibaldi's recreation and conservation resources.

5.2 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: OBJECTIVES/ACTIONS

5.2.1 Land Management

OBJECTIVE: ***To protect the existing land area of the park while expanding park boundaries into adjacent areas that have high park values.***

Since the establishment of Garibaldi Park, a number of changes to the park's land base have occurred. In view of the general increase in demand for protected areas and wilderness opportunities, it is important to retain the existing land area and review options for expansion. A number of proposals for boundary expansion has been suggested.

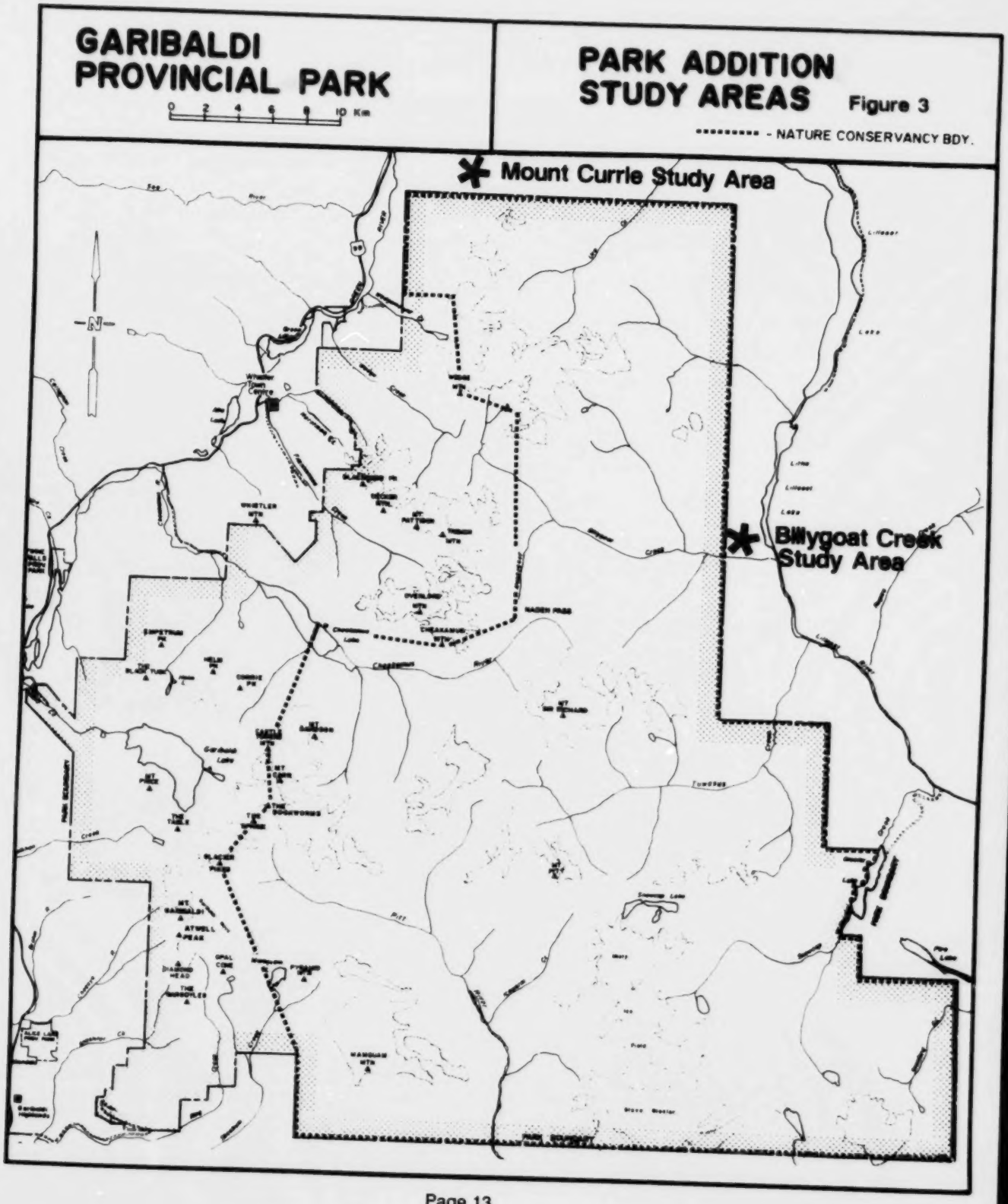
Actions

- Detailed studies and discussions will be initiated with various agencies, organizations and individuals to review the expansion of Garibaldi Park in the following areas. (Figure 3).

Mount Currie: An area containing several alpine meadows, glaciers, ridges, mountain goat habitat, and several waterfalls that potentially offer a variety of recreational opportunities.

Billy Goat Creek: Mountain goat habitat area omitted from the park but serving an important role in managing and protecting park goats.

- The entire park with the exception of the Blackcomb Glacier, will be included into Schedule "A" of the ***Park Act***.
- As decided in the Blackcomb Ski Area Proposal review (Appendix III), the Blackcomb Glacier will be deleted from the park if required for ski development. As with any proposed deletions, a public review will be conducted.
- Area 3 of the Blackcomb Proposal (Figure 4) will be made available for environmental studies to assess natural features for recreation potential, including alpine skiing.
- The trailhead access for Cheakamus Lake, Singing Pass and Wedgemount Lake will be upgraded and secured.
- The Rubble Creek corridor will be managed in keeping with O.I.C. 1185, the Barrier Civil Defence Zone which has restrictions on development and public access.
- All existing public shelters including The Sphinx and Sentinel Glacier huts will be retained.
- The Ministry of Forests will be encouraged to reforest the cut blocks adjacent to Glacier Lake for quick green-up and to apply landscape management techniques to existing commitments for future harvesting.
- The proposed addition at Glacier and Fire lake will be reviewed, upon expiry of resource commitments.


GARIBALDI
PROVINCIAL PARK
0 2 4 6 8 10 Km
PARK ADDITION
STUDY AREAS
Figure 3
- NATURE CONSERVANCY BDY.
Mount Currie Study Area
Billygoat Creek
Study Area

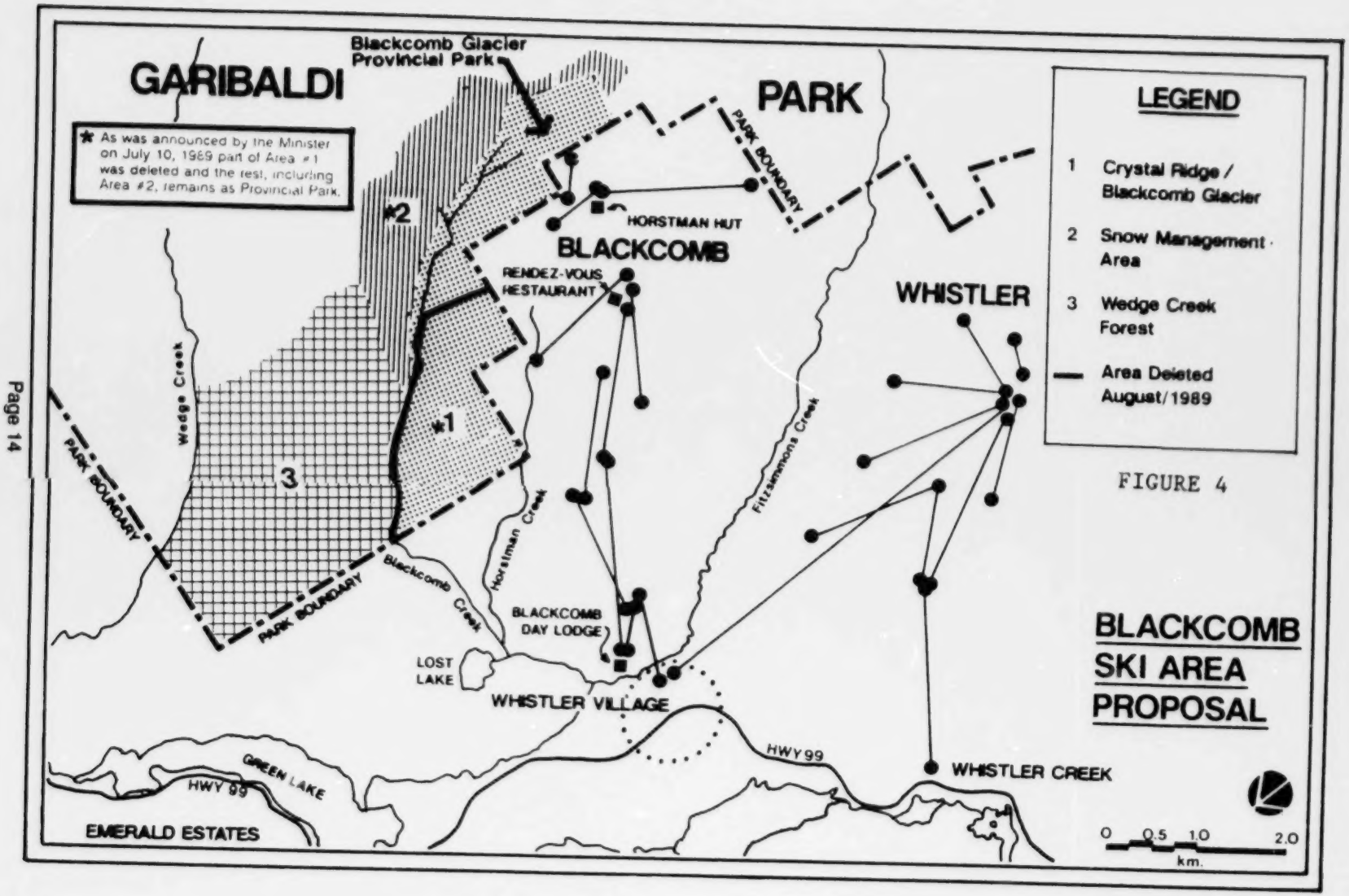

GARIBALDI
PARK
Blackcomb Glacier Provincial Park
* As was announced by the Minister on July 10, 1989 part of Area #1 was deleted and the rest, including Area #2, remains as Provincial Park.
#2
#1
3
PARK BOUNDARY
Wedge Creek
HORSTMAN HUT
BLACKCOMB
RENDEZ-VOUS RESTAURANT
WHISTLER
Fitzsimmons Creek
Horstman Creek
Blackcomb Creek
BLACKCOMB DAY LODGE
LOST LAKE
WHISTLER VILLAGE
HWY 99
GREEN LAKE
EMERALD ESTATES
WHISTLER CREEK
LEGEND
1 Crystal Ridge / Blackcomb Glacier
2 Snow Management Area
3 Wedge Creek Forest
Area Deleted August/1989
BLACKCOMB SKI AREA PROPOSAL
0 0.5 1.0 2.0
km.

FIGURE 4

5.2.2 Vegetation Management

OBJECTIVE: ***To perpetuate the park vegetation in a natural dynamic ecosystem and preserve critical plant communities.***

To fulfil the park's conservation and recreation role, it is essential that the major vegetation communities are managed as naturally evolving plant communities. Lightning fires, avalanches or similar hazards are considered natural forces contributing to the evolution of plant communities. Critical plant communities, such as old growth forest, should be preserved as environmental benchmarks and gene pools for the future.

Actions

- A vegetation inventory and management plan will be prepared documenting the impacts on park vegetation with a prescribed program for restoring high impact areas such as the alpine meadows and protecting the old growth forests.
- Fires, disease or other hazards caused by nature, will be allowed to take their natural course, except in circumstances where human life, facilities, critical plant communities or resources outside the park boundary are threatened.

5.2.3 Water Management

OBJECTIVE: ***To maintain the park watersheds in their natural condition free from contaminates or pollution to benefit park visitors, plants, animals and down stream users.***

The maintenance of a high quality water resource is another important component of the conservation and recreation role of Garibaldi Park. While there have been few problems with water quality, increases in park attendance reiterate the need to emphasize actions that conserve this essential resource while still making waterside recreation available.

Actions

- Ensure sanitary facilities are properly designed and located;
- The Mashiter watershed will be signed;
- Soil erosion will be minimized through revegetation and careful construction techniques;
- Public information on water conservation and consumption as well as the safe disposal of grey water will be provided;

5.2.4 Visual Management

OBJECTIVE: *To ensure the viewing opportunities within the park and surrounding landscape are maintained and, in some cases, improved.*

Within the park boundary, a high priority will be given to maintain quality visual experiences while outside park boundaries, adjacent land managers will be encouraged on an ongoing basis to minimize their impact on external park views from within the park.

Actions

- Cooperation with the Ministry of Forests, the Ministry of Crown Lands and the adjacent ski resorts will be encouraged to minimize visual impact. Glacier Lake and the Whistler/Blackcomb ski areas will be emphasized.

5.2.5 Wildlife Management

OBJECTIVE: *To maintain the existing natural biotic diversity of species and genetics of the park's wildlife population.*

The wildlife of Garibaldi Provincial Park is an important contributor to the representation of the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape and adds to the appeal of the park as a quality wilderness area. In particular, the opportunity to view pika, marmot and mountain goat add considerably to the park's values. Declining goat populations over the past 15 years have emerged as the major wildlife management concern.

Actions

- A wildlife inventory and long term management plan for wildlife in the park will be formulated in conjunction with agencies and groups managing wildlife resources outside the park, including a comprehensive proposal for maintaining a self-sustaining population.
- Hunting will be discontinued.
- Domestic animals including pets will be prohibited in the park.

5.2.6 Fish Management

OBJECTIVE: *To manage Cheakamus Lake and Glacier Lake for recreational fishing while maintaining the existing conditions for remaining fish habitat.*

Actions

- Angling at Cheakamus and Glacier Lake will be encouraged, with restriction or enhancement measures taken as required.
- Garibaldi Lake will be maintained as a natural fishery with no enhancement. Fishing will continue provided the resource remains on a self-sustaining basis.
- Fish will not be introduced into lakes and streams within the nature conservancy area.

5.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE: *To reduce the rate of deterioration of the Diamond Head Chalet and Taylor cabin.*

These two structures are historic links to the era of early park visitors and mountaineers and remain as symbolic legacies of the pioneers who worked to preserve Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Actions

- Periodic maintenance will be done to stabilize each structure for as long as possible.
- Interpretation signs and information will be provided outside both structures to explain their significance in the park's history.
- If the structures become a hazard to public safety they will be removed.

6.0 VISITOR SERVICES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The challenge of providing visitor services in Garibaldi lies in achieving balance between recreational use and the conservation of park features and resources. While Garibaldi's greatest asset is a vast, pristine wilderness rich in outstanding natural features, its greatest constraints in terms of conserving these features are the pressure and demands placed on it by increasing numbers of visitors. In view of the priceless value that accessible wilderness represents, the visitor services concept places a high priority on non-consumptive, low impact recreational opportunities while addressing the needs for expanded facility-oriented uses.

Specifically, the visitor services proposed for the park seek to balance the following objectives related to zoning:

- *to provide backcountry opportunities in a highly scenic environment supported by a minimal level of visitor services (Natural Environment Zone, Special Feature Zone);*
- *to provide and encourage low impact wilderness opportunities in a pristine natural environment with no developed facilities (Wilderness Conservation Zone); and,*
- *to encourage consumptive recreation opportunities outside the park whenever possible.*

These objectives are reflected in the general access strategy which bring vehicle access close to park boundaries and then provides low-impact trail access to the park's more popular features and to wilderness access points. Beyond the wilderness access points, visitors determine their own travel routes.

To achieve these objectives it is important to work in close concert with Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton as well as managers of the adjacent ski resorts, to coordinate planning and development.

Informing visitors about all aspects of Garibaldi Park is one of the most important functions of visitor services management. The information strategy will be to emphasize

the wilderness nature of the park, encourage dispersed use, and ensure the public is aware and prepared for the potential dangers associated with wilderness travel.

6.2 Visitor Opportunities/Facilities (Figure 5)

The following summary outlines each activity, its objective and the facilities or services required.

6.2.1 Hiking/Backpacking

OBJECTIVES: ***To encourage a range of hiking opportunities from short level interpretive trails through to high elevation routes. In an effort to maximize the wilderness atmosphere many of these routes will not be designated trails.***

Garibaldi offers a wide variety of hiking opportunities to suit individual physical ability. Most are concentrated in the vicinity of the Black Tusk Meadows, Cheakamus Lake, Diamond Head and Singing Pass. While day hiking is most popular, there is considerable opportunity for backpacking during multi-day excursions, particularly three to four day trips north to south along the west half of the park or six or seven day wilderness trips through the heart of the park.

In addition to existing trails and designated backcountry huts and camps, the following facilities/services are proposed.

Actions

- Upgrade and secure the existing trail access and staging areas at Cheakamus Lake, Singing Pass, Blackcomb and Wedgemount Lake.
- A high route trail in the Spearhead Range linking the Blackcomb ski area and the Whistler ski area will be studied in detail. Included in the study will be an assessment of impact on mountain goats.
- Develop a trail to Mt. Price and Clinker Peak from Garibaldi Lake Campground.
- Develop a trail along the Musical Bumps.
- Develop a loop trail linking Russet Lake and Adit Lake.
- Develop backcountry campsites at Mamquam Lake, Helm Lake and Adit Lakes.
- Develop a trail from Cheakamus Lake to Singing Pass.
- Upgrade all existing designated trails.

6.2.2 Angling

OBJECTIVE: ***To provide a high quality experience based on a self sustaining fishery.***

The opportunity to fish for rainbow trout at Garibaldi Lake is one of the main attractions for some visitors. As indicated in the resource management section, this opportunity will be continued, provided the resource remains self-sustaining. If circumstances warrant, enhancement measures may be implemented at Cheakamus Lake and Glacier Lake.

Actions

- The facilities/services provided would be information on fishing regulations and conservation.

6.2.3 Mountain Biking

OBJECTIVE: ***To encourage mountain bike access to park trailhead parking areas but to limit cycling to two areas: the Red Heather Ridge trail up to the Elfin Shelter and the proposed south Cheakamus River trail.***

Mountain biking has become an extremely popular outdoor recreation activity over the past few years, providing the opportunity to travel great distances in mountain terrain. But mountain biking in Garibaldi Park has created conflict with pedestrian visitors because most hiking trails in the park are unable to accommodate both users. Many hikers also fear cycling off established trails could cause widespread, irreversible damage to alpine meadows.

Actions

- Develop a mountain bike trail on the southern bank of the Cheakamus River in concert with the Ministry of Forests and outdoor recreation clubs.
- Encourage mountain bike opportunities at Blackcomb and Whistler ski areas and within the Soo Provincial Forest;
- Provide information on mountain biking in the park and vicinity, including information on trail ethics and etiquette.

6.2.4 Winter Recreation

OBJECTIVE: ***To encourage ski touring in Diamond Head and other areas of the park including the Black Tusk; Singing Pass and, Cheakamus Lake.***

Winter recreation in Garibaldi Park has traditionally been concentrated in the Diamond Head Area for ski touring and in the Spearhead Range for heli-skiing. Some visitors traverse the Garibaldi Neve from Diamond Head to Garibaldi Lake or to traverse the high route between Whistler and Blackcomb Ski areas.

Actions

- Sign and trail markers will be installed on winter access routes to Cheakamus Lake, Black Tusk and Singing Pass.
- Study in detail the high route trail in the Spearhead Range linking the Blackcomb ski area and the Whistler ski area as a possible ski tour route supported by a hut system. Included in the study will be an assessment of impact on mountain goats.
- Encourage snowmobiling outside the park.

6.2.5 Commercial Recreation Services

OBJECTIVE: ***To encourage commercial recreation services that are in keeping with the role of Garibaldi Park.***

Wilderness guiding and helicopter skiing have been the traditional commercial recreation services in the park. Sightseeing from aircraft has become a popular recreation services in recent years and continued growth is anticipated.

Actions

- General aviation, landings and sightseeing by aircraft will be managed for minimum impact on park visitors and wildlife through an aviation management plan. The plan will provide guidance on minimum altitude of flights and will restrict landings.
- The heli-skiing opportunities will continue to be a recreation services offered in the park. However, no new areas will be considered within the park for additional heli-skiing.
- Non-mechanized guiding in the park will be encouraged.

6.2.6 Outdoor Education

OBJECTIVE: ***To encourage outdoor education in the park and enhance public understanding and appreciation of park values.***

Garibaldi Park offers numerous opportunities for nature appreciation and wilderness skills development through outdoor education programs.

Actions

- Interpreters will present programs on park themes such as active alpine glaciers, volcanoes, subalpine meadows, meadow restoration, fish protection, wildlife habitats, proper use of wilderness, and early mountaineering in the park.
- School groups will be encouraged to participate in interpretive programs during their visits in the park.

6.2.7 Other Activities

Park policy throughout British Columbia's park system provides for a variety of socially constructive recreation activities. However, not all of these activities are necessarily in keeping with the wilderness role of Garibaldi Park. Given that and the fact that other opportunities are available in close proximity to the park, heli-hiking, snowmobiling, and hunting are not deemed acceptable activities for Garibaldi Park.

6.3 MANAGEMENT SERVICES

6.3.1 Headquarters and Service Yards

The park headquarters and service yard will continue to be located at Alice Lake Park with service bases at Garibaldi Lake and Elfin Lakes. The existing service road in the Diamond Head area will be phased out beyond the Red Heather Ridge Shelter.

6.3.2 Site and Facility Design Standards

All sites and facilities developed for public use will meet the design standards of the Ministry of Parks. Factors to be considered include visual aesthetics, safety, durability and operational efficiency.

6.3.3 Safety and Health

Every normal precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and health of visitors and staff in Garibaldi Park. Potable water supplies in high-use areas will be designated

and periodically tested. Toilet systems will meet Ministry of Health guidelines. As well, there will be periodic safety inspections of all high-use areas.

The Ministry of Parks has no internal search and rescue capability, but will offer its resources to RCMP and Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) staff during any search-and-rescue emergency in the park.

6.3.4 Volunteer Services

OBJECTIVE: ***To encourage volunteer assistance in the overall management of the park.***

Garibaldi has enjoyed the many and varied services of volunteers over the decades. Guidebooks, trail buildings, clean-up and planning assistance have all resulted from the countless hours of dedicated volunteers and friends.

6.4 PROMOTION AND INFORMATION PROGRAM

Given the high levels of park use at present, the spin-off promotional benefits from the marketing of Whistler and the level of visitor impact on some park resources there is little need to promote more park use. There is a need, however, to disperse use. This can be achieved by promoting visitation to the lower use areas, such as Singing Pass and Cheakamus Lake, and away from the higher use areas in the vicinity of the Black Tusk. Various objectives and measures proposed in this plan are directed towards promoting these low use areas. Access improvements, upgraded facilities and expanded information services will assist in shifting use patterns.

6.4.1 Public Information

As mentioned earlier, the information strategy for Garibaldi is to emphasize the park's wilderness nature, encourage environmental ethics and visitation to low use areas and to ensure the public is aware and prepared for the potential dangers associated with wilderness travel.

Actions

- Increase emphasis on environmental ethics in park brochures, signs and information shelters.

- Provide additional programs and seminars on outdoor education and wilderness skills development.

- Highlight low use areas of the park in regional tourism and provincial park displays, publications and slide shows.

- Institute a degree of difficulty rating system for park trails to better inform the public on trail conditions.

- Coordinate with the Resort Municipality of Whistler the possibility of using the proposed village visitor centre for park displays and information.

7.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The complexity and size of Garibaldi Park necessitates a phased program for implementing the number of resource and visitor management proposals over the five year term of the plan. This phasing has been divided into two parts.

Phase 1 (Year 1 - 2)

Resource Management

- Study the proposed park additions for Mount Currie and Billy Goat Creek.
- Designate the Park under Schedule "A" of the *Park Act*. Done under Park Act Amendment Act, proclaimed 90-08-02)
- Prepare a vegetation inventory/management plan and initiate meadow restoration at Diamond Head.
- Liaise with the Ministry of Forests and the ski resorts with respect to coordinating the planning of ski areas and forestry and park development.
- Continue goat inventory and studies in conjunction with the establishment of the high route between Whistler and Blackcomb ski areas.
- Provide interpretive display at Diamond Head Chalet.
- Discontinue hunting.
- Install signs on the Mashiter watershed.

Visitor Services

- Upgrade all existing designated trails.
- Construct a trail from Singing Creek Delta to Singing Pass.
- Develop Musical Bumps to Singing Pass Trail in conjunction with the Whistler Ski Resort.
- Install signs and markers on winter access trails to Black Tusk, Singing Pass, and Cheakamus Lake.
- Develop and implement an aviation management plan.
- Implement the promotion and information proposals.
- Develop wilderness campsites at Mamquam Lake and Helm Lake.

- Develop mountain bike trail on South Cheakamus River.

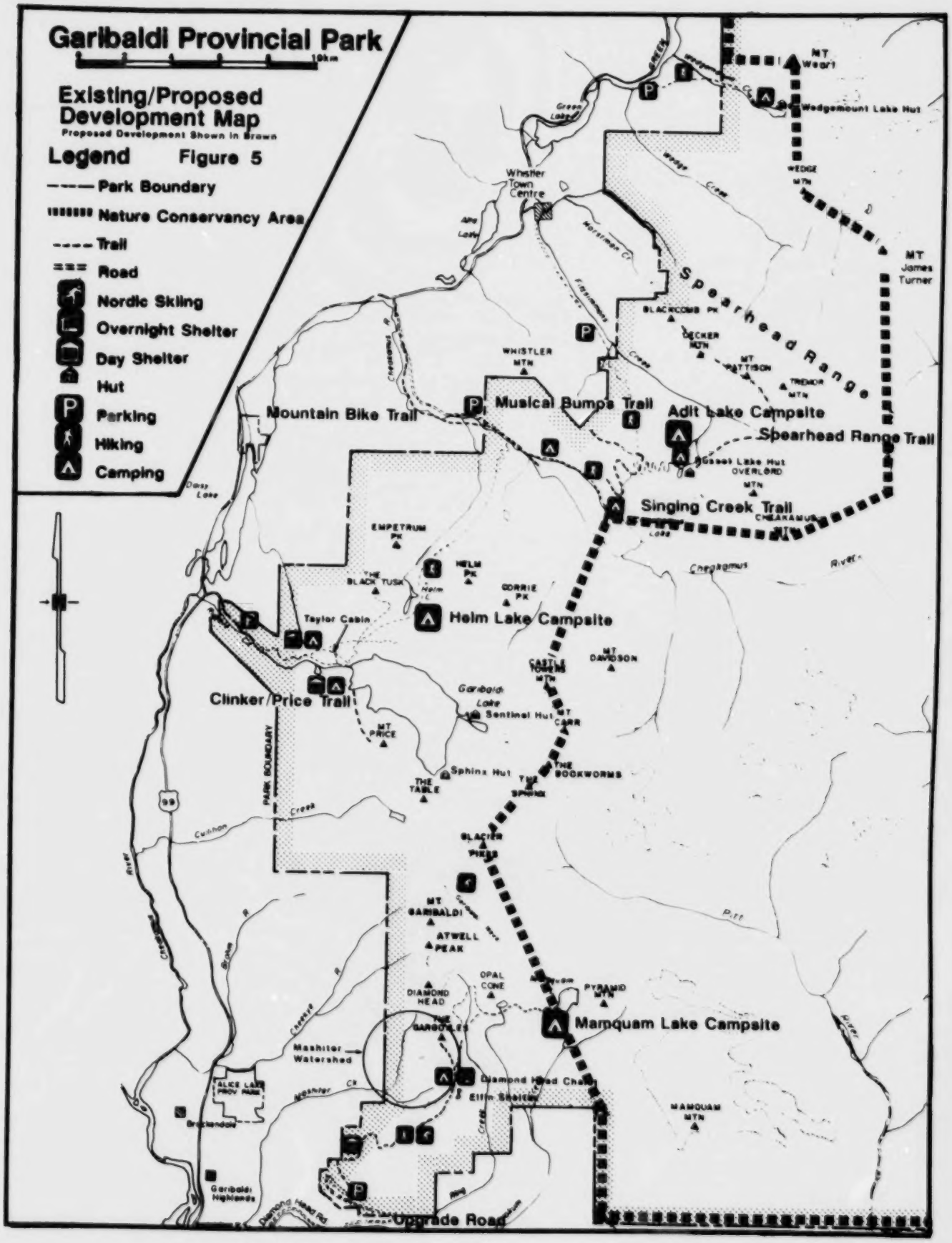
Phase 2 (Year 2 - 5)

Resource Management

- Prepare a wildlife inventory/management plan.
- Secure trailhead access at Cheakamus Lake, Singing Pass, Blackcomb and Wedgemount Lake.

Visitor Services

- Construct a trail from Garibaldi Lake to Clinker Peak and Mount Price.
- Develop a loop trial to and a campsite at Adit Lakes.


Garibaldi Provincial Park
Existing/Proposed Development Map
Proposed Development Shown in Brown
Legend
Figure 5
Park Boundary
Nature Conservancy Area
Trail
Road
Nordic Skiing
Overnight Shelter
Day Shelter
Hut
Parking
Hiking
Camping
Mountain Bike Trail
Musical Bumps Trail
Adit Lake Campsite
Spearhead Range Trail
Singing Creek Trail
Helm Lake Campsite
Clinker/Price Trail
Marquam Lake Campsite
Upgrade Road
Spearhead Range
Wedgemount Lake Hut
Whistler Town Centre
Taylor Cabin
Sentinel Hut
Sphinx Hut
Diamond Head Chalet
Elfin Shelter
Mashiter Watershed
Garibaldi Highlands
PARK BOUNDARY

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix I
Background Report

BC Parks

APPENDIX I

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

BACKGROUND REPORT

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GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

BACKGROUND REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

For over eighty years, Garibaldi Park has been providing inspiration and adventure for several generations of hikers fortunate enough to visit its outstanding natural wonders. Through the diligent efforts of the park's first visitors and supporters, including the pioneering mountaineers of the British Columbia Mountaineering Club and the Alpine Club of Canada, the area was established as the province's forth provincial park in 1927.

The park is named after the most dominant peak in the area, Mount Garibaldi. In 1860, while carrying out a survey of Howe Sound on board the Royal Navy survey ship, H.M.S. Plumper, Captain George Henry Richards beheld a towering mountain to the northeast. Impressed by its majesty and desiring to give the peak a name befitting its splendour, Richards named the mountain after the great 19th Century Italian patriot, Guiseppe Garibaldi.

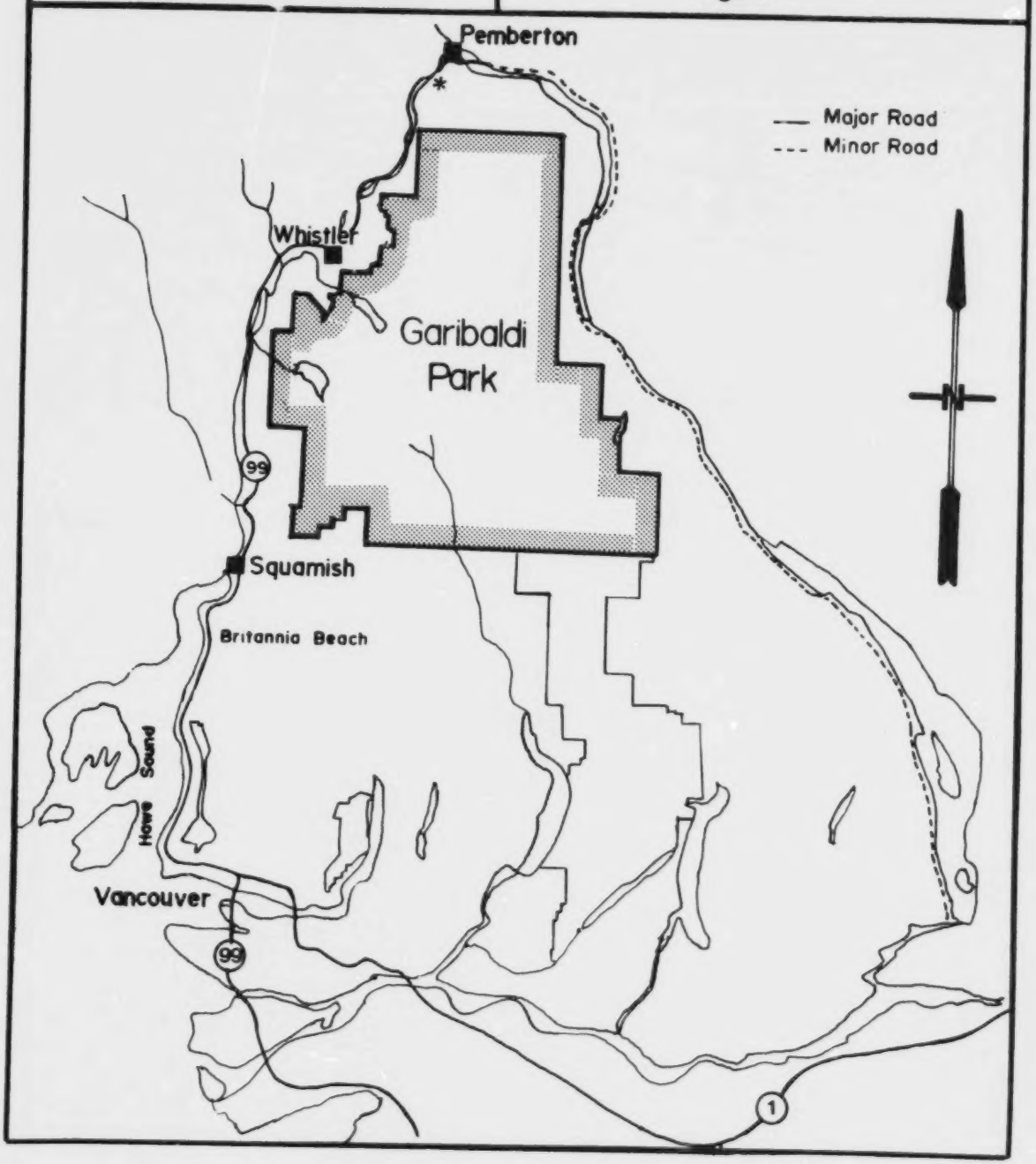
Garibaldi Park is located 97 km north of Vancouver (Figure 1) and is now the sixth largest provincial park in British Columbia, covering over 194,000 hectares of the Pacific Ranges. It is one of several large provincial areas set aside to provide a variety of wilderness recreation while conserving a provincially significant landscape. Within its boundary is a tremendous diversity of natural features from extinct volcanoes and massive glaciers to majestic mountain peaks. For many visitors the real attractions are the colourful alpine meadows.

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

10 0 10 20 30 Km

PARK LOCATION

Figure 1



2.0 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

2.1.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY (Natural Regions and Regional Landscapes)

Natural Region and Regional Landscape are basic units that the Ministry of Parks uses to describe areas of common and contiguous landform types, such as mountains, plains, plateaus or lowlands. Garibaldi Park is part of the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape which is one of eight Regional Landscapes that collectively represent the Province's Coast Mountain Natural Region.

The granitic mountains of the Rugged Pacific Ranges contain the highest peaks in the Coast Mountains from Mount Waddington in the north, at over 4000 metres, to Mount Garibaldi in the south at nearly 2700 metres. Physiographically, Garibaldi Park is typical and representative of this regional landscape. Lower mountain peaks have been sculptured by cirque glaciers as evident by rounded and domed peaks, such as Corrie Peak, while many peaks such as James Turner, Mount Garibaldi and Atwell Peak extended above the Pleistocene ice-cap. Mountain slopes are steep sided and densely forested, while the lower elevation u-shaped valleys bear further evidence of the glacial process. Typically, the landscape has a rectangular type drainage pattern with numerous glaciers, ice fields and snow fields.

A belt of volcanic centres from Pleistocene and recent volcanic activity, extends from Mount Garibaldi in the south to as far north as Bridge River. As a result, the park has several peaks of volcanic origin such as the "Black Tusk" as well as numerous volcanic features including cinder cones and lava flows.

Fitzimmons Creek headwaters left of centre and Overlord Glacier, centre

2.1.2 GEOLOGY

Geologic History

The Pacific Ranges are the result of major geologic events that have occurred since their formation 135 - 181 million years ago. They were formed during the Jurassic period by a large mass of intrusive igneous rock called the Coast Batholith.

Many other events including volcanic eruptions and the metamorphic granite intrusion and uplifting that occurred during the Cretaceous period, have created this landscape. However, it was several glacial periods that did the most sculpturing to the present park features. The last glacial period, known as the Wisconsin or in British Columbia, the Fraser, began as a massive accumulation of ice and snow. At its maximum, about 15,000 years ago, the glaciers were up to 300 metres in depth and several kilometres long. Through a combination of abrasion and erosion, many of the features in the park, like the cirques and u-shaped valleys, were created.

Bedrock Geology

The bedrock in Garibaldi Park is composed of sedimentary, metamorphic igneous and volcanic rocks. Igneous rock in the form of Granodiorite, Quartz, Diorite and Migmatite is by far the most prevalent, covering about two thirds of the park area.

2.1.3 SOILS

The soils of Garibaldi Park have essentially been derived from a wide range of glaciated surficial material that has been subject to extensive physical and chemical weathering. Although most of the South Coast Mountain area has not been surveyed for soils, field reports have established a general indication of soil distribution.

In Garibaldi Park, two soil orders; organic and podzolic soils are present and represent three great groups including the ferro-humic podzol, humo-ferric podzol, and the folisol soils. Additionally, in the Garibaldi Lake area, there are specialized volcanic soils.

Ferro-Humic Podzol

Shallow deposits of colluvium overlying bedrock is the most common parent material of these soils, although they also form from morainal deposits and gravelly fluvial materials. The main soil forming processes to create this soil type involved the accumulation of organic matter, iron and aluminum oxides producing soils, in combination with the presents of strong podzol B horizons. Soil depth is usually one to two metres, moderately well drained and friable.

Humo-Ferric Podzol

Like the ferro-humic podzol soil, the humo-ferric podzol are formed from the same types of parent material but in addition are also formed from marine deposits. They are equally moderately well drained, friable and occur in depths one to two metres, particularly the colluvial formed soils. There are greater levels of organic material in the humo-ferris podzol accounting for the emphasis placed in the ist prefix of the classification name.

Folisols

Folisol are organic soils consisting of shallow organic material, consequently they develop in vegetated areas where organic material is abundant. They occur as pockets in conjunction with ferro-humic podzols.

Volcanic Soils

Very little research has been done on volcanic soils; however, two studies, one by T. Lewis and I. Sneddon reveal that soils derived from lava have no special characteristics other than being a little more nutrient rich.

2.1.4 CLIMATE

The climate of Garibaldi is fairly typical of the West Coast and the Maritime Zone. This zone has a moisture pattern determined by the eastern movement of moisture laden air from the Pacific Ocean through shallow valleys and steep, mountainous areas to produce a convective weather formation. This system produces warm summers and

moderately cold winters. The 1941 -1985 climate standards indicate average precipitation in August of 5.3 cm, while summer temperatures at the 610 metre elevation average 18°C. Winter temperatures average -1.5°C at this elevation, with annual snowfall averaging 422 cm. At the northern reaches of Garibaldi, the influence of the interior climate begins, resulting in less precipitation and cooler temperatures.

2.1.5 VEGETATION (BIOGEOCLIMATIC ZONES)

Garibaldi Park has three biogeoclimatic zones: The Coastal Western Hemlock Zone (CWH), the Subalpine Mountain Hemlock (MH) Zone and the Alpine Tundra Zone (AT).

The Alpine Tundra Zone is the prevalent zone, occupying approximately 65% of the park area. It begins at about the 1750 metre elevation and is characterized by glaciers, moraines, snow fields and sparse vegetation such as lichen and dwarf Mountain Hemlock. Other dwarfed trees, low shrubs, and herbs are common at the lower elevations of the zone while lichens, principally Coelocaulon aculeatum, Umbilicaria vellea and Rhizocarpon geographicum, are the dominant vegetation on exposed peaks.

The other two zones are stratified within the valleys with the Subalpine Mountain Hemlock Zone occupying the upper slopes of the valley below the Alpine Tundra Zone, while the Coast Western Hemlock Zone occupies the lower slopes and valley floors.

The Coast Western Hemlock Zone occurs along the British Columbian Coast generally between the 0 to 1000 metre elevation. The climatic climax tree species found in the CWH Zone is Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla). This species regenerates in abundance in this zone, however, Western Red Cedar (Thuja plicata) and Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) are also common. Due to the high precipitation, 280 to 665 cm per year, which occurs in the CWH zone, Amabilis fir (Abies amabilis) and Yellow Cedar (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis) frequently occur at the upper elevations.

In the Subalpine MH Zone the climatic climax tree species is Mountain Hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana). Amabilis Fir (Abies amabilis) and Yellow Cypress (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis) are also common in this zone. At the lowest elevations, Western Hemlock, Douglas-fir and White Pine (Pinus monticola) can be found while at the highest elevations are stunted Alpine Fir (Abies lasiocarpa) and Whitebark Pine (Pinus albicaulis).

The development of the Subalpine Mountain Hemlock Zone in Garibaldi Park is affected to a large degree by the moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean. As a result, the weather conditions are milder and have given rise to an atypical subalpine forest. Mountain hemlock, which under normal conditions is uncommon in the subalpine forest, forms the treeline in the Park. Amabilis Fir and Yellow Cypress which, like Mountain Hemlock, have soft needles, are also atypical subalpine forest tree species.

Within the Alpine Tundra Zone and the Coastal Western Hemlock Zone lie the main vegetation features of the park including the alpine meadows and old growth cedar forests. There are a variety of alpine meadows in the park, ranging from the alpine flowering type at Black Tusk and Singing Pass to the heather meadows at Diamond Head. Two meadows of significance, a large wet heather meadow above Glacier Lake and the flower meadows below Mt. Price and Table Mountain, have remained virtually undisturbed by man. The old growth cedar forests are located along the Cheakamus River below Cheakamus Lake and in the upper reaches of the Pitt River. They contain a number of giant cedars, roughly two to three metres in diameter, scattered along the trail.

2.1.6 WATER RESOURCES

With a drainage area of nearly 2,000 square kilometres, the water resources of the park are extensive. The main sources of water are meltwater from ice fields and glaciers and significant precipitation. As all park drainage originates within the park, there is

very little possibility of contamination or impact from activity outside the park boundaries.

There are three major lakes in the park: Garibaldi, Cheakamus and Glacier Lake.

Garibaldi is the largest lake and is located at the 1470 metre elevation. It has a surface area of over 995 hectares and a mean depth of 121 metres. The deepest point, in the vicinity of Price Bay plunges 259 metres.

Water temperature readings taken in the summer of 1983, two metres below the surface indicate 3°C in mid July and at its warmest, at the end of August, 15°C. During the winter, the lake's surface is completely frozen over.

The depth of Garibaldi Lake varies considerably throughout the year. During the winter, when water input into the lake is very small, the level drops from water outflow at the outlet and from water escaping through lava beneath the surface. In late winter and early spring, the water level can fall several feet below the level of the outlet, although by June or July it may have risen to the point where it overflows (Mathews, 1975).

Heavy snow melt accounts for the rapid rise in lake level in early summer. The lake level gradually falls after most of the snow has melted.

Cheakamus Lake is the second largest lake in the park covering 469 hectares at the 831 metre elevation. Its mean depth is 58.1 metres and the deepest point is 119 metres. This point is located near the southeast end of the lake.

Glacier Lake is the third largest lake covering 212 hectares at an elevation of 317 metres. The mean depth is 16.4 metres and the deepest point is 29 metres. This point is located near the south end of the lake.

Most of the lakes and creeks are turquoise in colour, owing to the extensive run off of glacial flour. They also generally have very little aquatic vegetation. Garibaldi Lake was surveyed in 1977 and found to be absent of aquatic plants while Cheakamus and Glacier Lakes had sparse and sporadic distribution.

2.1.7 FISH AND WILDLIFE

In view of the rugged and generally barren terrain covering most of the park, there is a limited capacity to support a great quantity or diversity of fish and wildlife species in comparison to other provincial wilderness areas. There are, however, twenty-seven species of mammals, nine species of fish, including three salmon species, and nearly one hundred species of birds.

The most common mammal species observed by visitors are the Douglas' Squirrel, hoary marmot, pika and mountain goat. Although the list of large mammals believed to be residing in the park on a year round basis includes cougar, coyote, bobcat, Columbian Blacktail Deer, wolverine, black bear and the occasional grizzly bear, these species range over a wide area that usually goes far beyond the park boundaries.

With the exception of mountain goats, there is little information on the quantity and condition of these species. The mountain goat population for the park is believed to be approximately 50-70 animals. This reflects a substantial decrease from previous years.

The fish resources of the park are primarily associated with the three largest lakes. Garibaldi Lake was stocked with over 17,000 Rainbow Trout (Salmo gairdneri) eggs between 1928 and 1929, and has continued as a self sustaining fishery.

Cheakamus Lake has also been stocked with Rainbow Trout. Between 1926 and 1951 nearly 200,000 eggs have been placed in the lake. A 1983 survey however, concluded that fish production in the Cheakamus is quite low given the small size and lack of food in the stomachs of the fish.

There are no records of Glacier Lake having been stocked although surveys indicate four species of fish; Largescale Sucker (Catostomus macrocheilus), Dolly Varden (Salvelinus malma), Kokanee (Oncorhynchus nerka) and Rainbow Trout are present.

There is a wide variety of birds that can be seen in the park. The main source of information on the park's birds is from observations by staff and visitors.

It appears that many of the birds in the park are associated with its lakes. For example, osprey (Pandion haliaetus), common loon (Gavia immer) and water pipit (Anthus spindetta) have been commonly observed on Garibaldi Lake in addition to Canada Geese (Branta canadensis) on Glacier and Cheakamus Lakes.

In the forested areas the common species observed include Blue Grouse (Dendragapus obscurus), Varied Thrush (Ixoreus naevius), Pine Siskin (Cardvelis pinus), and the Clark's Nutcracker (Nucifraga columbiana) to name a few. Barred owl (Strix Varia) and Spotted owl (Strix occidentalis) species have been seen on one occasion in the past. The later is a rare species in British Columbia.

While the majority of birds in the park are migratory, there are a few year-round residents including White-tailed Ptarmigan (Lagopus leucurus), Gray Jay (Perisoreus canadensis) and the Raven (corvus corax).

2.1.8 VISUAL RESOURCES

The visual resources of the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape are primarily represented by three types of visual experiences: panorama, enclosures and focals.

Panorama - At the high elevation peaks and strategic viewpoints (ie. Wedge, James, Black Tusk, Turner, Sir Richard, Pitt Mountain, Garibaldi), the viewer can experience an uninterrupted view of the mountain ranges and valleys that make up the park and its surroundings. These prominent points are themselves major visual attractions when observed from a distance and represent the most significant visual features.

Enclosure - The numerous u-shaped valleys provide a large-scale enclosed visual experience with the valley ridges and creeks acting as the main interest. Forest covered

slopes and old avalanche slide sites provide a mid-ground contrast with the latter adding some seasonal variation. Along the edges of the forest cover, emergent deciduous vegetation also contributes to visual diversity through fall colour and winter loss of leaves.

Focal - There are numerous instances where the landscape focuses the viewer toward a particular feature, as in a cirque lake (ie. Terrarosa Lake) or glacier (ie. Sphinx Glacier) or at the termination of a valley.

All visual experiences are often modified by environmental dynamic conditions, particularly atmospheric conditions (ie. low cloud) on the panoramic view. There is generally little visual intrusion by man-made elements except along the periphery of the park boundary.

2.1.9 OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES (FIGURE 2)

Garibaldi Provincial Park contains an impressive array of outdoor recreation features that reflect its mountain terrain and volcanic history.

The prime concentration of recreation features centre around Garibaldi Lake. Here, four recreation feature units are ranked as nationally significant. These include Garibaldi Lake, the Black Tusk, the Table, and Panorama Ridge. Garibaldi Lake is a spectacular blue-green coloured lake surrounded by glacial and volcanic mountain scenery. The Black Tusk and the Table are volcanic landforms. Panorama Ridge affords superb viewing.

View south from Black Tusk Meadows of the western portion of Garibaldi Lake with Table Mountain on the left and Panorama Ridge in the foreground.

Adjacent to Garibaldi Lake are several features of provincial significance. Black Tusk Meadows is renowned for its alpine flowers. Mount Price is an impressive example of recent volcanism. Lava flows issue from this cone to the north and south. The Castle Towers and Isosceles Peak feature unit contains important glacier and regional topographic patterns.

Mount Garibaldi and Diamond Head are well known recreation features in the park, they as well as Opal cone, are contained in recreation feature units of high significance.

The south half of Garibaldi Park is dominated by several provincially significant mountain peaks and glaciers. Mamquam Mountain, Mount Sir Richard, Misty Glacier, and Stave Glacier are included in this group.

The Fitzimmons and Spearhead Mountain Ranges contain several of the main feature units in the park. The Whistler and Blackcomb ski areas lie within feature units ranked as nationally significant for their regional topographic patterns and downhill skiing opportunities with a provincially significant alpine feature unit that extends from Whistler Mountain south to Russet Lake; Singing Pass. High mountain scenery and glacial landforms dominate the remainder of the Fitzimmons Creek drainage.

The north portion of the study area, centred on the Mount Weart and Mount Neal massif, contains a concentration of provincially significant recreation features. Glacial, topographic patterns, and rock features are dominant. Wedgemount Lake and alpine units to the north add high quality feature diversity.

Alpine and subalpine features are important attractions to the study area. The Black Tusk Meadows, and Paul Ridge are the best known and accessible alpine units. Provincially significant alpine features are found at Wedgemount Lake and the west flank of Mount Currie.

An important finding of this assessment is the existence of several alpine - subalpine environments along the east side of the park. Most of these feature units are

ranked as moderate in significance. The most noteworthy units are the alpine west of Glacier Lake and south of Fire Lake.

Old growth forest is found in many areas of the park with the most significant values in the Cheakamus Lake Valley, the upper Snowcap Creek Valley, and the Pitt River Valley.

Water features are important throughout the study area. The largest and most important in terms of recreation and uniqueness is Garibaldi Lake. Others such as Cheakamus Lake and Glacier Lake are also noteworthy for the variety of recreation they can provide and the easy access of their low elevation.

2.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are few cultural resources in the park. The most visible cultural objects are two log cabins; Taylor Cabin in Taylor Meadows and Diamond Head Chalet at Elfin Lakes. They have been used for recreation for many years and are well known traditional landmarks. These structures are currently in poor condition and are not open for public use.

In addition to these cultural objects, there are less visible but significant fossilized sea shells in the Barrier vicinity. They have been identified as a form of extinct clam and are estimated to be from 100 - 120 million years old.

The Squamish Indians have traditionally visited the park in ancient times to gather obsidian particularly in Ring Creek. This glassy volcanic rock was made into arrows and cutting tools, however, there are no confirmed records of these artifacts being found in the park.

2.3 RESOURCE ANALYSIS

The most significant aspect of a park's resources and features are their potential to serve the goals of the park system and to fulfil the purpose that which it was designated. Garibaldi's resources contribute significantly to achieving the conservation and recreation goals of the British Columbia Parks System (Appendix II).

CONSERVATION GOAL SIGNIFICANCE

i) **Natural Landscape Representation**

The landform and forest resources are the main resources that typifies the Rugged Pacific Ranges Regional Landscape. The granitic mountains, massive glaciers and u-shaped valleys are just a few of the many landform features while the forest cover of the park represents typical Coast Mountain conditions.

ii) **Protection of Outstanding Scenic Features and Recreation Settings**

As aforementioned, the park features are outstanding and provide an exceptional recreation setting. Features such as the Black Tusk are unique scenic features that provide the setting for some of the most outstanding hiking and backpacking opportunities in the province as demonstrated by its popularity with visitors.

RECREATION GOAL SIGNIFICANCE

i) **Major Outdoor Recreation Destinations**

Garibaldi Park is a major outdoor recreation destination that is an attraction in itself as well as a complementary attraction to the international destination of Whistler. Park attendance figures and surveys confirm the popularity of the park's diverse features and opportunities as a prime destination for wilderness recreation. These opportunities also help diversify the opportunities in Whistler while the extensive infrastructure of support services and recreational opportunities in the town centre attracts and serves international visitors to Garibaldi Park.

ii) **Regional Recreation**

The close proximity to the Lower Mainland enables Garibaldi Park to offer wilderness opportunities to many communities and representing the majority of the province's population. Although there are other provincial parks such as Manning or Strathcona that provide wilderness recreation, Garibaldi provides the highest quality opportunities in South West British Columbia by virtue of its' size, location and diversity of natural environment that has essentially remained unaltered by man. The other areas have been influenced to varying degrees by trapping, horse packing, or industry.

3.0 TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS AND JURISDICTION (Figure 3)

Leases and Permits:

PUP 509	Ministry of Environment, Glaciology Division - Study Purposes
PUP 686	BC Hydro - Access to Microwave Station
PUP 687	BC Tel Access to Microwave Station
PUP 742	Whistler Heli Ski Ltd. - Helicopter Skiing
PUP 983	Snow Courses #75 - #279 - Snow Measurements
PUP 1564	Federation of Mountain Clubs -Recreational Guiding
PUP 1635	Dr. Won S. Hong - Research/Collection
PUP 1728	BCIT - Research
PUP 1733	Blackcomb Skiing Enterprise -Ski Access Route
PUP 1825	Ministry of Forests and Lands -Ecosystem Monitoring
PUP 1929	Pacific Granite Mountaineering - Outdoor Education
PUP 1966	Royal British Columbia Museum -Collection: Insects
PUP 2195	Mountain Adventures Ltd. - Commercial Tours

Fee Simple Holdings:	None
Forest Tenures:	None
Water Rights:	None
Rights-of-Way:	None
Mineral Claims:	None
Trespasses:	None
Statutory Jurisdiction:	None
Guiding:	None

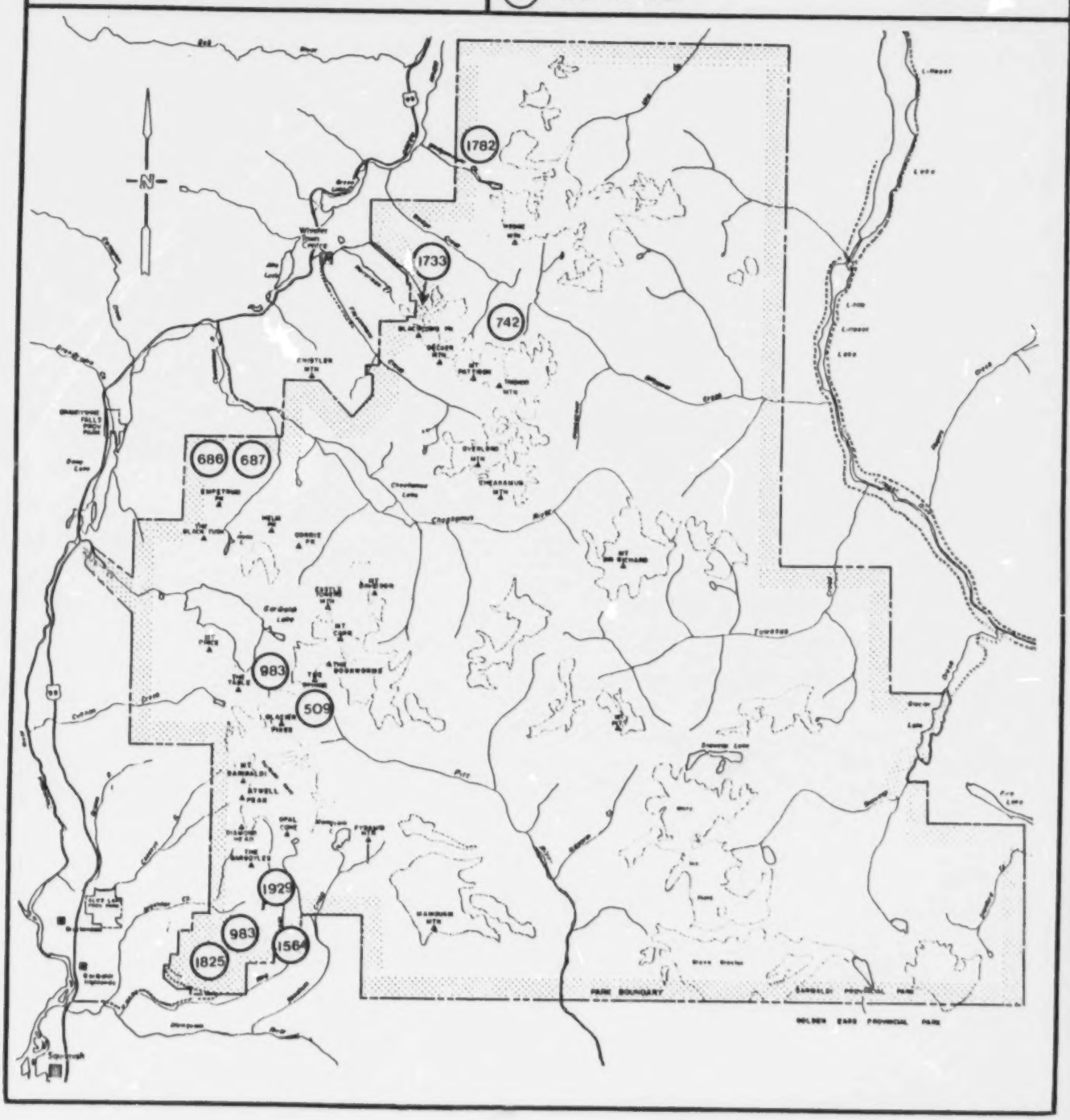
GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

0 2 4 6 8 10 km

TENURE MAP

(666) - PARK USE PERMIT

Figure 3



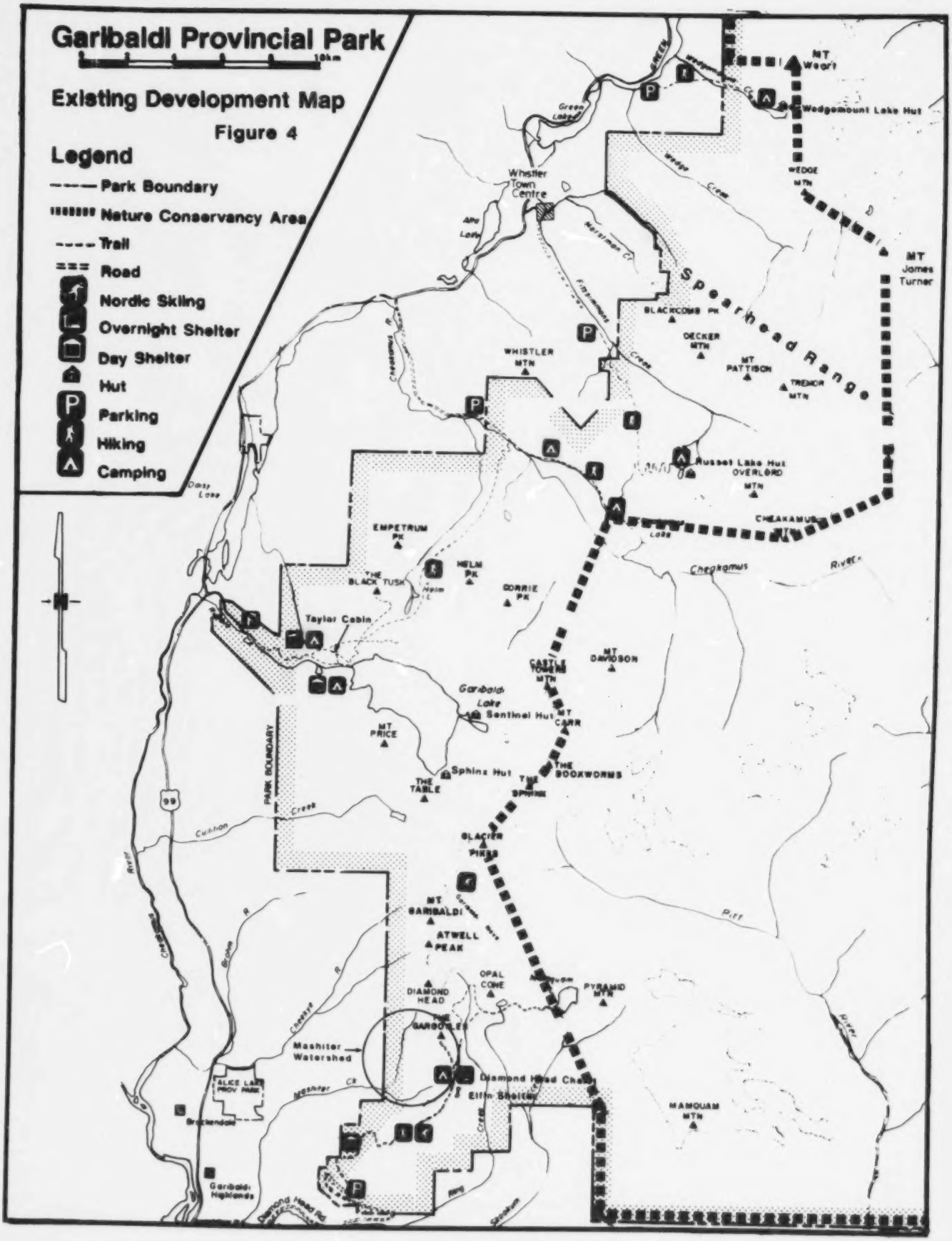
4.0 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES/EXISTING FACILITIES (Figure 4)

Garibaldi Provincial Park provides a wide range of alpine backcountry recreational opportunities from day hiking to multi-day backpacking excursions. Access is achieved from five trailhead parking areas; Diamond Head, Black Tusk, Cheakamus Lake, Singing Pass and Wedgemount Lake. Each has different levels of use, facilities and natural features.

Diamond Head Area

The Diamond Head area, the closest park trailhead to Vancouver, is less than an hour's drive away. Its summer recreational opportunities include day hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and rock climbing. Red Heather Meadows and Elfin lakes are popular day hike destinations while visitors who are backpacking usually can extend their trip to include Opal Cone, Mamquam Lake, Diamond Head or Mount Garibaldi. Mount Garibaldi provides three main climbing approaches ranging from an easy (Class 2) climb to moderate (Class 4).

There are over 24 kilometres of developed hiking trails and 11 kilometres of designated backcountry ski trials in the Diamond Head area. The main access trail is multiple use, providing both hiking and mountain biking opportunities. To meet the needs of overnight visitors, about thirty-six designated campsites are provided near Elfin lakes as well as an all-season shelter capable of accommodating thirty to thirty-five people. In addition, there is an all-season day use shelter at Red Heather for hikers and skiers.


Garibaldi Provincial Park
10km
Existing Development Map
Figure 4
Legend
Park Boundary
Nature Conservancy Area
Trail
Road
Nordic Skiing
Overnight Shelter
Day Shelter
Hut
Parking
Hiking
Camping
Whistler Town Centre
Wedgemount Lake Hut
MT Weart
MT James Turner
Spearhead Range
BLACKCOMB PK
DECKER MTN
MT PATTISON
TREMOR MTN
WHISTLER MTN
Russet Lake Hut
OVERLORD MTN
CHEAKAMUS MTN
Cheakamus River
EMPETRUM PK
THE BLACK TUSK
HELM PK
GORRIE PK
Taylor Cabin
MT DAVIDSON
Garibaldi Lake
Sentinel Hut
MT CARR
MT PRICE
Sphinx Hut
THE TABLE
THE BOOKWORMS
PARK BOUNDARY
99
Cultus
GLACIER PEAK
MT GARIBALDI
ATWELL PEAK
OPAL CONE
DIAMOND HEAD
PYRAMID MTN
THE GARGOYLES
Mashiter Watershed
ALICE LAKE PROV PARK
Diamond Head Chalet
Elfin Shelter
MAMQUAM MTN
Garibaldi Highlands

Diamond Head has been the traditional focus in the park for winter recreational opportunities. Although the 11 kilometres of ski trails are not tracked, they are identified with markers or poles. Most winter visitors to Diamond Head, ski to Elfin Lakes as their destination while others, especially during spring may venture across the Garibaldi Neve to Garibaldi Lake, a distance of about 10 kilometres. It usually takes several days to complete the traverse. Other opportunities include telemark skiing in Red Heather Meadows and below Diamond Head Peak.

Elfin Lakes with Diamond Head Chalet on the right and Mount Garibaldi in the background

Black Tusk Area

The Black Tusk area, contains the highest concentration of natural features and offers the greatest diversity of recreational opportunities in the park. Summer opportunities are the most popular with an emphasis on hiking. There are many hiking options from relatively easy hikes through Black Tusk Meadows and Cinder Cone to the more arduous hike and then climb up the Black Tusk. Rock climbing opportunities are equally diverse from Class 1 climbs like Mount Price to the challenging Class 5 climbs of Table Mountain and the north ridge of Guard Mountain.

Black Tusk Meadows trail with the east bluff of the Black Tusk in background.

Besides hiking and rock climbing, there are opportunities for camping, fishing and endless opportunities to view, paint or photograph the spectacular scenery.

The Garibaldi Lake area contains 20 kilometres of developed hiking trails. To accommodate overnight visitors there are two campgrounds located at the west side of the lake, that provide tent pads, cooking shelters, and pit toilets. There are 140 campsites in total. Other development includes a nature house and interpretation centre. At the eastern end of the lake there are two primitive huts that are mainly used in winter by skiers crossing the Garibaldi Neve.

In winter there are many opportunities for ski touring however as the access is more difficult in winter, only the more adventuresome few visit.

Cheakamus Lake Area

The Cheakamus Lake area is the most accessible trailhead into the park in terms of trail length and elevation gain. Its relatively flat valley terrain makes the area accessible for virtually all visitors including the elderly. The main attraction of this trail access is the attractive stands of giant trees and picturesque Cheakamus Lake. In addition to the hiking opportunities the area offers fishing and primitive camping. There are about 50 campsites and eight kilometres of trail development.

Singing Pass (Fitzimmons Creek)

Like the Black Tusk and Diamond Head areas, the Singing Pass area is an alpine destination for day hikers and backpackers. The trail to the pass is approximately 7.5 kilometres long and climbs 600 metres. It provides opportunities to enjoy an attractive alpine meadow and view at a distant, some of the parks most spectacular peaks. A primitive hut at Russet Lake provides emergency shelter during inclimate weather.

Wedgemount Lake Area

The Wedgemount Lake area is the most difficult of the five park accesses. The trail is very primitive and rises steeply over 1200 metres. A small overnight shelter is

the only development. The rock climbing opportunities are the main attraction with the most challenging Class 5 climbs on the bluffs south of Wedgemount Lake.

During the winter, the northern boundary of the Fitzimmons Creek drainage, the Spearhead Range, is used by ski mountaineers and extensively for heli-skiing. This range of peaks and glaciers provides excellent powder skiing opportunities. There are no facilities provided in the Spearhead Range.

5.0 MARKETING ANALYSIS

Marketing analysis in planning involves reviewing existing use levels, use patterns and the demand to provide a measure of the effectiveness of existing programs.

5.1 Existing Use

Garibaldi Park is the most heavily used backcountry park in the province (Appendix V). During 1989, about 3,600 party nights and about 20,000 party days for day use was recorded, however, as there are a number of undeveloped and unmonitored accesses into the park, actual use figures are believed to be higher.

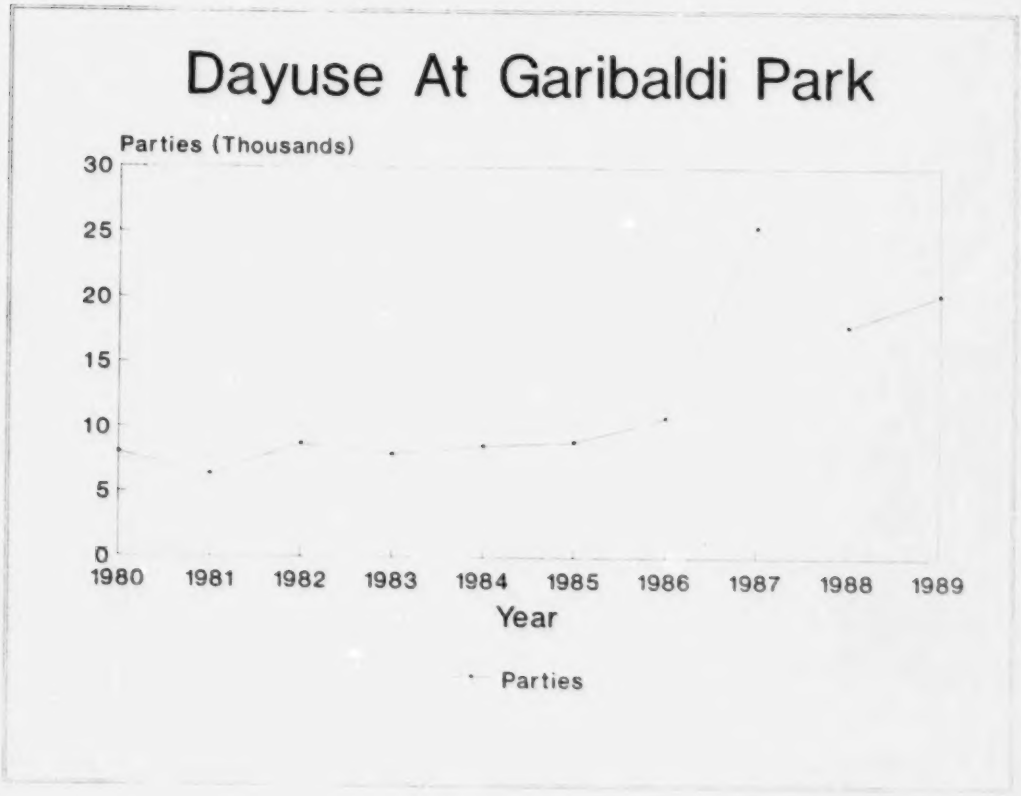
Garibaldi Lake and Diamond Head continue to be the most popular areas of the park representing sixty percent (60%) of camping and seventy percent (70%) of the day use attendance.

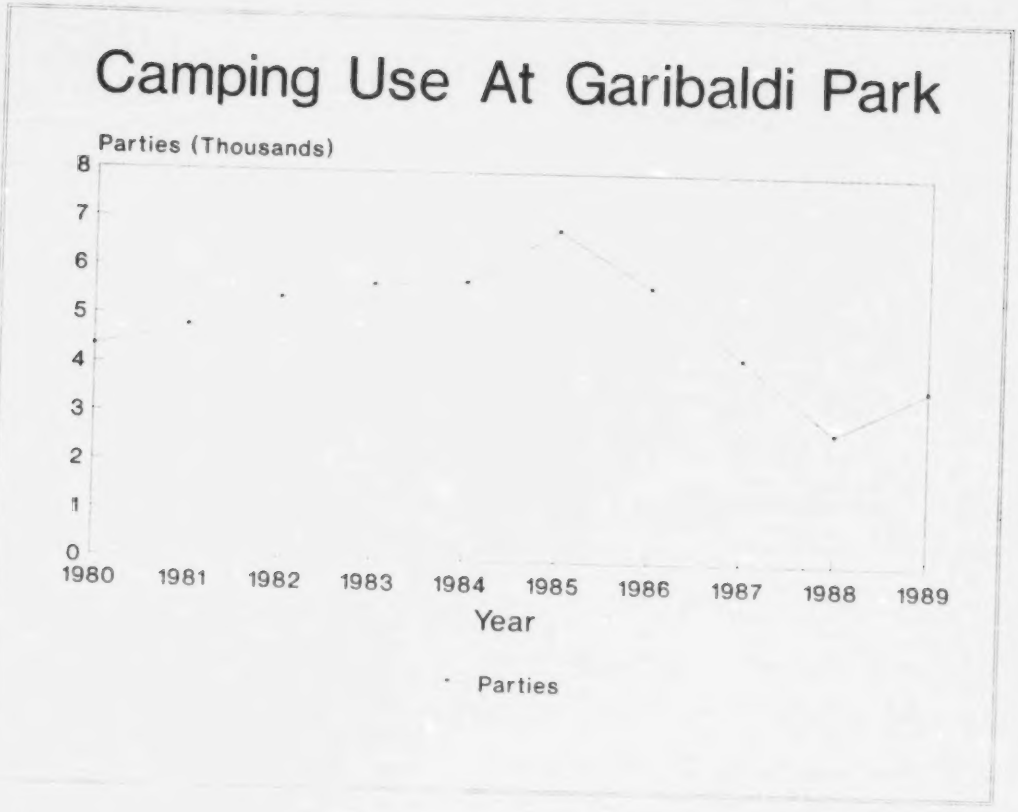
5.2 Visitor Profile

The typical visitors are young adults from age 18 - 34. This group represents over fifty percent (50%) of the people that visit the park. Most visitors to the park, over eighty percent (80%), are British Columbian residents while the states of Washington, Oregon, and California surprisingly are the next most significant origin of park visitors. Of those visitors staying overnight, about seventy percent (70%) stay two nights or more.

5.3 Demand

Between 1980 and 1989, Garibaldi Park averaged about 153,000 visitors each year. Over the last three years, overall attendance has decreased about nineteen percent (19%). An especially significant trend has been the increase in day use of approximately one hundred and fifty-six percent (156%) since 1983 and the decrease in camping use of forty-six percent (46%) since the peak of the decade in 1985.





Much of the day use increase has occurred at the trailheads closest to the Whistler Resort. The Cheakamus Lake trail has experienced the greatest single increase in the park, having approximately two hundred and thirty-five percent (235%) increase in use since 1984, and the Fitzimmons Creek trail lagging not far behind at an eight-four percent (84%) increase since the same year. This increase is also reflected, but to a lesser degree, in the popular trailheads such as Rubble Creek/Garibaldi Lake at a fifty-five percent (55%) increase.

6.0 KEY ISSUES/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There are a number of far reaching issues that the master plan must address. All of the key issues have received considerable public review during the course of formulating this plan. The key issues and both the public comments and options to be considered are described as follows:

ISSUE: ROLE OF THE PARK

Determining the role of the park in the BC Parks System is the fundamental step in determining the park's management direction. Garibaldi has traditionally been a wilderness park; however, the change in recreation use patterns and the increase in demand for more opportunities suggest this role should be reviewed.

Public Comments

The wilderness emphasis in the park role received wide support when presented to the public. Most people felt there should be wilderness near Vancouver, and Garibaldi was the best candidate.

Others, however, have suggested that wilderness close to the Vancouver area was unrealistic given the heavy use of park trails, resource development near park boundaries, and the impact from aircraft noise. They suggested tourism should play an equal role to wilderness.

Options

Given the above comments, the options to be considered are simply to emphasize wilderness or not to emphasize wilderness. If wilderness is not emphasized, there is no other area in Southwest British Columbia that can meet the role Garibaldi Park currently plays. However, this would open up many opportunities for expanded development and vastly improved access through the use of aircraft.

ISSUE: LEGISLATING BOUNDARY

Legislating the park boundary provides for review and debate in the legislature before boundaries could be reduced and suggest public concerns would be taken into consideration.

Public Comment

This issues was accepted by most in principle; however, many felt that a review of the entire park boundary should be done first. Those opposed to the boundary review recognize the awkwardness of a straight line boundary but are concerned about the potential to reduce the park size under such a review. There was little support to consider any changes in the boundary that would require a deletion.

Options

There are two options to address this issue to maintain the status quo or legislate the boundaries. While public review for boundary changes has been the acceptable practise recently, it may be difficult to continue this costly and time consuming process for every proposal that is brought forward. Consequently, there is the potential in the long term to make boundary changes with little or no public involvement if the status quo is maintained. As aforementioned, legislation would ensure boundary changes would be open for review in the legislature.

ISSUE: PROPOSED ADDITIONS

A number of areas have been proposed to be added to the park (Figure 5). These included six areas proposed in the initial phase of the plan: Lizzie/Rogers Creek; Mount Currie; Billy Goat Creek; Diamond Head/Rubble Creek; and several others proposed during public meetings including Pinecone Lake; Callaghan Lake, Cheakamus River, Alice Ridge, and Brohm Ridge. Two areas; Rubble Creek and Diamond Head have already been added. The Mount Currie and Billy Goat proposal, are considered the most viable potential additions at this time given the five (5) year term of this plan and considering the logistic and environmental factors of the other proposals.

Public Comments

Most people supported the Mount Currie and Billy Goat Creek proposals.

Options

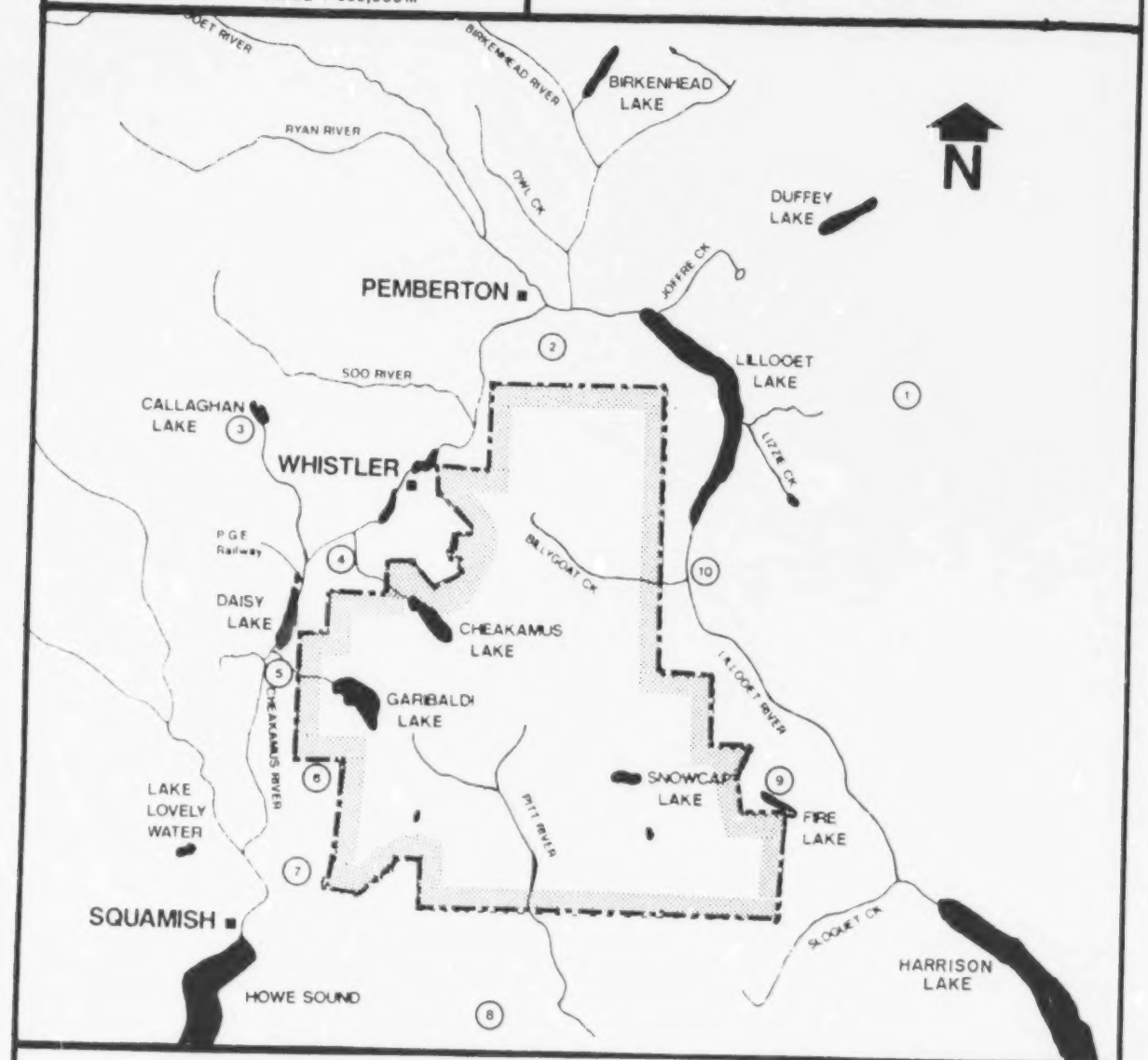
To retain the current situation would forgo a good opportunity to add to the park land base and potential opportunities. There is no gain in benefits to the park in maintaining the status quo.

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

SCALE 1:600,000 m

MAJOR PROPOSED ADDITIONS

Figure 5



1. Rogers/Lizzie Creek
2. Mount Currie
3. Callaghan Lake
4. Cheakamus River
5. Rubble Creek ✱
6. Brohm/Alice Ridge
7. Diamond Head Reserve ✱
8. Pinecone Lake
9. Glacier/Fire Lake
10. Billy Goat Creek

✱ Recently added to the park

ISSUE: LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES

The level of development and services is an issue that virtually every park must address; however, it is more critical in a wilderness park like Garibaldi where development must be balanced with the preservation of pristine natural environments. The use levels and comments from the public clearly indicate there is a demand for increased development and services.

Public Comment

Although most people supported the modest level of development proposed during the public meetings, there were concerns that it would be insufficient to meet public demand or enhance local tourism. One major proposal, the Spearhead trail loop received mixed support with many concerned about the safety of the route and the logistics of a hut system along the trail.

Options

There are three basic options to address this issue:

1. maintain status quo;
2. develop modestly;
3. develop extensively.

Maintain Status Quo

This option has no benefits for the park. The demand for increased opportunities if not addressed will severely impact park resources adjacent to existing facilities.

Develop Modestly

This option has the best potential of achieving the balance between development and wilderness. Immediate needs for development can be addressed while leaving future options open to provide more development or maintain the existing level of natural environments.

Develop Extensively

A major expansion of park facilities into areas of the park that are now wilderness will not only meet the immediate needs for development but could accommodate greater levels of use if marketed and promoted. Tourism opportunities could be enhanced especially if easy air access is included. These measures while providing the maximum amount of recreational opportunities are likely to displace the wilderness values of the park.

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix II
Provincial Park System Goals

BC Parks

APPENDIX II

PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM GOALS

The British Columbia provincial park system has two mandates: to conserve significant and representative natural and cultural resources; and to provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Within the conservation mandate the system has two goals.

Goal 1. Protection of Representative Landscapes Environments. The provincial park system will include areas that are representative of the natural environments of British Columbia, thereby protecting and presenting, for posterity, the characteristic combinations of flora, fauna, landforms, and waters associated with this diverse province.

Goal 2. Protection of Outstanding Recreation Resources. The park system will contain a wide scenic selection of the best provincial outdoor recreation resources, natural features, wilderness areas and historic resources of British Columbia.

Within the recreation mandate, the system attempts to achieve three recreation goals.

Goal 1. Destination Opportunities

The provincial park system will include appropriate outdoor recreation lands and facilities providing for the use and enjoyment of major outdoor recreation destinations in British Columbia.

Goal 2. Travel Corridor Opportunities

The provincial park system will include, as a complement to other suppliers, outdoor recreation lands and facilities in association with major provincial travel corridors to ensure that travelling vacationers are supplied with a basic network of scenic stop-offs.

Goal 3. Regional Recreation Opportunities

The provincial park system will include, as a complement to other suppliers, land and facility-based opportunities for outdoor recreation distributed in association with British Columbia's natural geographic regions in order that British Columbians are assured a basic supply of outdoor recreation services close to home.

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix III
Blackcomb Ski Area Proposal Review

BC Parks

ADB 273001-27

1610 Mt. Seymour Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7G 1L3

89-07-26

Dear Friend of Garibaldi:

This letter is to update you on the decisions made on the five point proposal by Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises Limited, to make amendments to the boundary of Garibaldi Park.

As we indicated in our 89-04-19 letter to you, the review of the proposal was the subject of the public meetings. A summary of the meetings and written responses received has been enclosed for your information.

After extensive review and consideration of comments expressed at the public meetings and subsequent written submissions, the Minister has made the following decisions with respect to the five proposal specifics made by Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises Ltd.

Proposal A - Delete Area #1 (Crystal Ridge/Blackcomb Glacier) from the park (see enclosed map)

Decision: About one half of Area #1 (230 hectares - Crystal Ridge) will be deleted from the park immediately. The remainder of Area retained in the park and be subject to a Snow Safety Plan until the area is scheduled for ski development. At that time the remaining part of Area #1 will be deleted. The Snow Safety Plan is explained in Proposal B.

Analysis: The need for expanded alpine skiing opportunities has been demonstrated by Blackcomb and through public opinion. Only the area which is absolutely necessary for alpine skiing development is being deleted.

Proposal B - Area of the park proposed for avalanche control

Decision: Area #2 (270 hectares) will be retained in the park as part of the area managed by the Snow Safety Plan. This plan will be formulated through a joint effort on the part of the Ministry of Parks and Blackcomb. A park use permit will be issued to Blackcomb to carry our avalanche control as part of the plan.

Analysis: The Snow Safety Plan addresses the need for safe public access in the areas adjacent to the controlled ski area.

Proposal C & D - Study of Area #3 and legislating park boundaries

Decision: The proposed study of Area #3 (680 hectares) will not proceed at this time, and the proposal to establish park boundaries under legislation will be addressed in the second draft management plan.

Analysis: The above items require further consideration and consultation within the context of the draft management plan.

Proposal E - Adding Mt. Currie and Cheakamus River to the Park

Decision: The Mt. Currie and the Billy Goat Creek areas proposed as additions to the park in the draft management plan are being reviewed with other agencies to clear any resource interests so that they can be added to the park.

The Cheakamus River proposed addition will be addressed in the draft management plan.

Analysis: All resource values in the proposal areas have yet to be evaluated. Their park value is recognized; however, the various agencies having some interest in the proposal require a more extensive review prior to park designation.

The Cheakamus River proposed addition requires further consideration and consultation within the context of the draft management plan.

Additions

Decision: Although not proposed by Blackcomb, two areas identified in the draft plan for addition, Rubble Creek (750 hectares) and Diamond Head Road (60 hectares), will be added to the park at the same time the deletions are made.

Analysis: Evaluation of the resource values in Rubble Creek and Diamond Head has been completed and it is agreed that the highest and best use of the land is as Class "A" park.

We appreciate the level of interest and effort that has been put into the letters and presentations during the meetings and over the last few months. Public interest in this process has proven to be one of the highest ever experienced by BC Parks.

The second draft management plan will be formulated over the next few months. During this period, meetings with a few more groups and agencies will continue. Once the second draft has been completed in the fall it will be made available to the public with a summary and analysis.

I look forward to your continued interest and participation in this planning process.

Yours truly,

George Trachuk
Regional Director

GC/mlm

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE BLACKCOMB EXPANSION PROPOSAL INTO GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

BACKGROUND

During the process of developing a management plan for Garibaldi Provincial Park, the Ministry of Parks received a proposal from Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises Ltd. to expand their ski area into Garibaldi Provincial Park. As this proposal suggested a reduction in park area, the Ministry of Parks organized public meetings to provide the public an opportunity to review the proposal and express their views. In addition to the meetings, the public review included a follow-up period to receive written comments. The results of the public meetings and written comments are summarized in this report.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

These meetings were held on May 2, 1989, and May 3, 1989, at Whistler and Vancouver respectively, with over 250 people attending each evening.

At each meeting, the Ministry of Parks summarized aspects of a draft management plan which concerned the area in question. Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises presented their proposal to expand their ski development and following these presentations, the public was encouraged to express their views.

At both meetings, the following concerns emerged:

- If the Blackcomb proposal were approved, would more requests be made in the future? Some suggested that Blackcomb Enterprises agree to limit their expansion in perpetuity as a condition for approval.
- The potential impact on the environment of the expansion was a concern particularly the impact on the park's goat population.
- There were a number of comments about the proposed addition of the Mount Currie alpine area and the Cheakamus River corridor. Some suggested that the additions and deletions for the ski area should be implemented simultaneously. Blackcomb indicated that these proposals were made to support securing important recreation lands in parks status.
- The importance of the Blackcomb Glacier was expressed for existing users, tourism, the ski industry, and for a resource valued by the general community. Blackcomb acknowledges the value of the area.

In addition, at Whistler, several major issues were of special concern and discussed at length. They included the following:

- Avalanche control in Blackcomb Glacier would result in the loss of extreme skiing opportunities
- Feasibility of park additions
- Rapid growth, as envisaged by Area #3, will bring further demands on the community and highway from Vancouver which may be unacceptable to the community.

In Vancouver, concerns that were discussed included the following:

- Skin mountaineers will have to go beyond Blackcomb Glacier into other areas of the Spearhead range, if the Glacier is closed to extreme skiers
- Skier safety on Blackcomb Glacier for the average skier is not being addressed at present and this impacts the resort's image negatively.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

A comment form was provided at each meeting to encourage written comments from the public, and many were mailed out to interested parties. A deadline of May 3,1 1989, was set for submitting the comment cards and letters.

About 1,800 cards and letters have been received. Of these, the majority (over 90%) are generally in support of the Blackcomb proposal, although a number of people emphasized the need for strong controls, environmental studies, protection and monitoring. The most common reasons given for support included:

- to keep Whistler Resort Competitive
- to relieve crowded conditions
- to fully utilize the area
- to control avalanche and improve ski safety
- to enhance tourism

Those who do not support the Blackcomb proposal gave the following reasons for their opposition:

- inability to afford to enjoy the Blackcomb Glacier
- parkland should not be deleted for commercial exploitation
- Whistler Mountain will in turn ask for more land to top Blackcomb
- loss of more wilderness
- there are areas outside parks for ski area expansion, ie. Powder Mountain, Whistler Westside

- Blackcomb cannot patrol the area effectively
- the ski area is not overcrowded
- other areas deleted previously for ski development have not been developed, ie. Flute and Piccolo drainages

However, many people in this group have suggested conditions under which this proposal would be acceptable to them. These suggestions include:

- restrict expansion to below treeline
- let Powder Mountain proceed before going into the park with a deletion
- no development on the Glacier (just ski runs)
- Ministry of Parks control of development, clearing etc.
- consider deletion in the context of an overall review of Garibaldi's boundary and the park's place in the provision of recreation and conservation opportunities in the Squamish-Lillooet area
- delete at the same time as making additions

Province of
British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, July 10, 1989

Minister of State for Vancouver
Island/Coast and North Coast,
Responsible for Parks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boundary Changes to Garibaldi Provincial Park

VICTORIA — Garibaldi Provincial Park boundaries are being changed to allow expansion of ski hills in Blackcomb, Parks Minister Terry Huberts and West Vancouver-Howe Sound MLA John Reynolds announced today.

At the same time, 810 hectares are being added immediately to the 200,000-hectare park north of Vancouver. After an interagency study, a further 5,075 hectares may also be added to the north and east boundaries of Garibaldi Park.

"I took the action after the public indicated strong support for these changes," said Huberts. Ninety per cent of the people who commented on this proposal said they were in favor of some expansion of developed alpine skiing opportunties and associated activities into the Crystal Ridge and Blackcomb Glacier areas of the park.

More than 500 people attended two public meetings in Whistler and Vancouver May 2 and 3. More than 1,800 people mailed their comments.

"In light of the overwhelming public opinion that the best use of at least part of this area is for high intensity winter recreation and summer use, I am recommending to Cabinet that the land be removed from the park and leased to Blackcomb Enterprises Ltd. by the Ministry of Crown Lands," said Huberts.

(more)

The parks minister is recommending that 230 hectares in the Crystal Ridge area be deleted immediately so that it can be developed for alpine skiing. Huberts is further recommending that the remaining 240 hectares in the Blackcomb Glacier area be deleted if the company presents specific plans for developing the area.

"This announcement is being made now to allow sufficient time to adequately prepare snow safety plans for the coming ski season," said Huberts.

BC Parks and Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises will jointly develop a snow safety plan and coordinate safety information programs in the Blackcomb Glacier area this winter. A park use permit will be issued to Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises to authorize its involvement in avalanche control and improving skier safety in this section of the park.

Garibaldi Park boundaries will also be changed to bring in 750 hectares, including all of the hiking trail along Rubble Creek to Garibaldi Lake. The parking lot and three kilometres of hiking trail used to be outside of the park boundary. Sixty hectares including the Diamond Head access have been added to the park.

"I am also pleased to announce the government's intention to add a further 5,075 hectares to Garibaldi Park," Huberts added. About 175 hectares surrounding Billygoat Creek on the eastern boundary and 4,900 hectares on the northern boundary near Mount Currie may be added following an interagency review later this year.

The net result of these changes will be to increase the total amount of Class A land within Garibaldi Park to over 200,000 hectares. It's one of the largest of B.C.'s 380 parks. Covering 5.4 million hectares, B.C. Parks encompasses more land than the entire country of Switzerland.

The master planning process for Garibaldi Provincial Park is continuing. A revised draft plan will be presented for public review in the fall.

-30-

Contact: Ed Wall 356-7045

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix IV
Summary of Public Comments on the Garibaldi Park Draft Master Plan

BC Parks

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SUMMARY/ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON THE
GARIBALDI PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

In an effort to produce the best master plan possible for Garibaldi Provincial Park that addresses the needs of the general public, a major public involvement component was included in the planning process.

PUBLIC PROCESS

The planning process had two stages of public involvement. Phase I summarized the pertinent background information and identified the main issues. About 185 people attended three open houses held in Vancouver, Squamish and Whistler from March 15 to 17, 1988. During the following months, 60 written submissions were received.

The second stage of public involvement dealt with the review of the draft master plan. Three meetings were held from October 4 to 6, 1988 in the same locations to discuss the plan's proposals. Prior to the meetings, copies of the plan were mailed to those who had attended the Phase I open houses. About 175 people attended with 130 written submissions received. In addition, workshops and numerous special meetings were conducted that brought diverse groups together for open discussion of the outstanding issues.

During the second stage of public involvement, Blackcomb Ski Enterprises Ltd. submitted a proposal for boundary changes adjacent to their ski area. This proposal was reviewed by the public on May 2 and 3 of 1989 and in August, the Minister of Parks announced that a small area of the park would be deleted for alpine ski purposes.

After resolution of the Blackcomb proposal, the overall planning process for the park was continued.

The public comments on each of the following issues are a synopsis of the written and verbal comments from the public meetings, letters, comment forms, group meetings and workshops that have taken place.

ISSUE: ROLE OF GARIBALDI PARK

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The wilderness emphasis in the park role received wide support. Most people felt there should be wilderness near Vancouver, and Garibaldi was the best candidate.

Others, however, have suggested that wilderness close to the Vancouver area was unrealistic given the heavy use of park trails, resource development near park boundaries, and the impact from aircraft noise. They suggested tourism should play an equal role to wilderness.

ANALYSIS

The general public has expressed a need for wilderness and have given extensive reasons for keeping Garibaldi Park a wilderness area. Although it may be a difficult task to maintain this role indefinitely given the demands on the park to provide more facilities, the wilderness role addresses the needs for the foreseeable future.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- The revised draft plan maintains the wilderness emphasis in the park role and recognizes through its management policies the need to address the use pressures on the park and encourage low impact tourism. In reality, at this time, Garibaldi Park is the only protected wilderness area near Vancouver.

ISSUE: PARK CLASSIFICATION/ZONING

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most people felt that designating 85% of the park for nature conservancy area was too large (Figure 1). Nearly everyone favoured having a large nature conservancy area; however, there was wide disagreement on how extensive it should be or what it should contain and how it would relate to the Black Tusk Nature Conservancy. The general consensus was that some of the major drainages in the proposed nature conservancy area, such as the Upper Cheakamus and Billy Goat Creek, should be kept available for future trail development and should be zoned differently.

ANALYSIS

Given the strong support for the wilderness role, it is understandable that there would also be strong support for a large nature conservancy area. The proposal to have most of the park as a nature conservancy and the concerns to have the flexibility in the future to add trails are not mutually exclusive. Although the boundaries of a nature conservancy area are intended to be permanent, they could be altered in the future to accommodate trails, for example, if it is determined that this would best meet the needs of British Columbians.

Although the Black Tusk Nature Conservancy Area contains the most popular features in the park, the existing use levels and the presence of facilities is beyond the policy intentions for nature conservancy areas.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION:

- The proposed nature conservancy area of the draft plan will be reduced to 75% of the park's area (Figure 2) and the Black Tusk Nature Conservancy Area designation will be removed.

* Changes in the Provincial Park Zoning Policy has resulted in the changes to the name of the park zones as shown on Figure 2.

Draft Plan Classification / Zoning Map

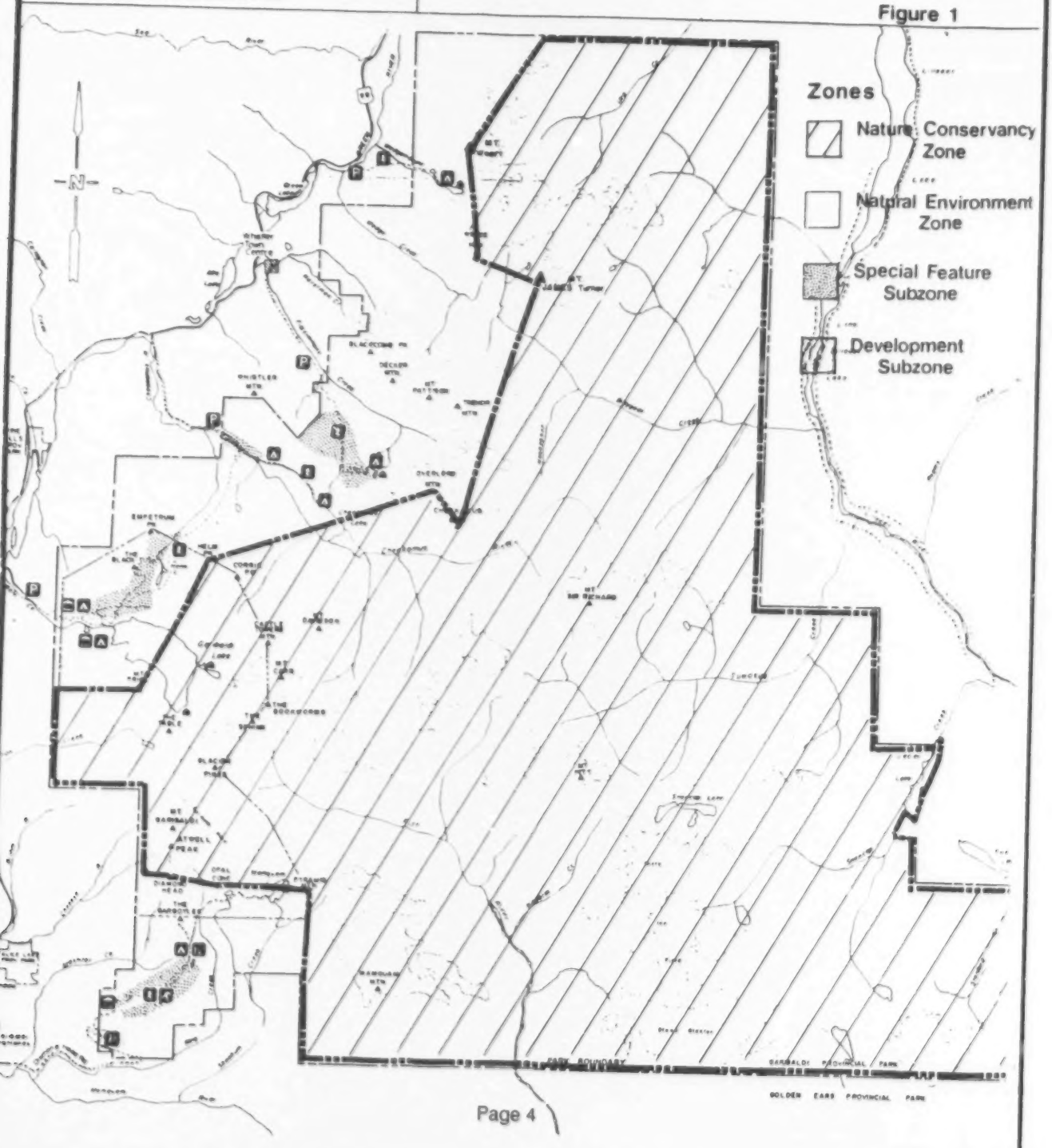
GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

0 2 4 6 8 10km

Legend

- Park Boundary
- Nature Conservancy
- Trail
- Roads
- P Parking
- H Hiking
- A Camping
- Nordic Skiing
- Overnight Shelter
- Day Shelter
- Hut

Figure 1



GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

Revised Draft Plan Classification / Zoning Map

LEGEND

- WILDERNESS CONSERVATION ZONE *
- INTENSIVE RECREATION ZONE **
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE
- SPECIAL FEATURE ZONE ***

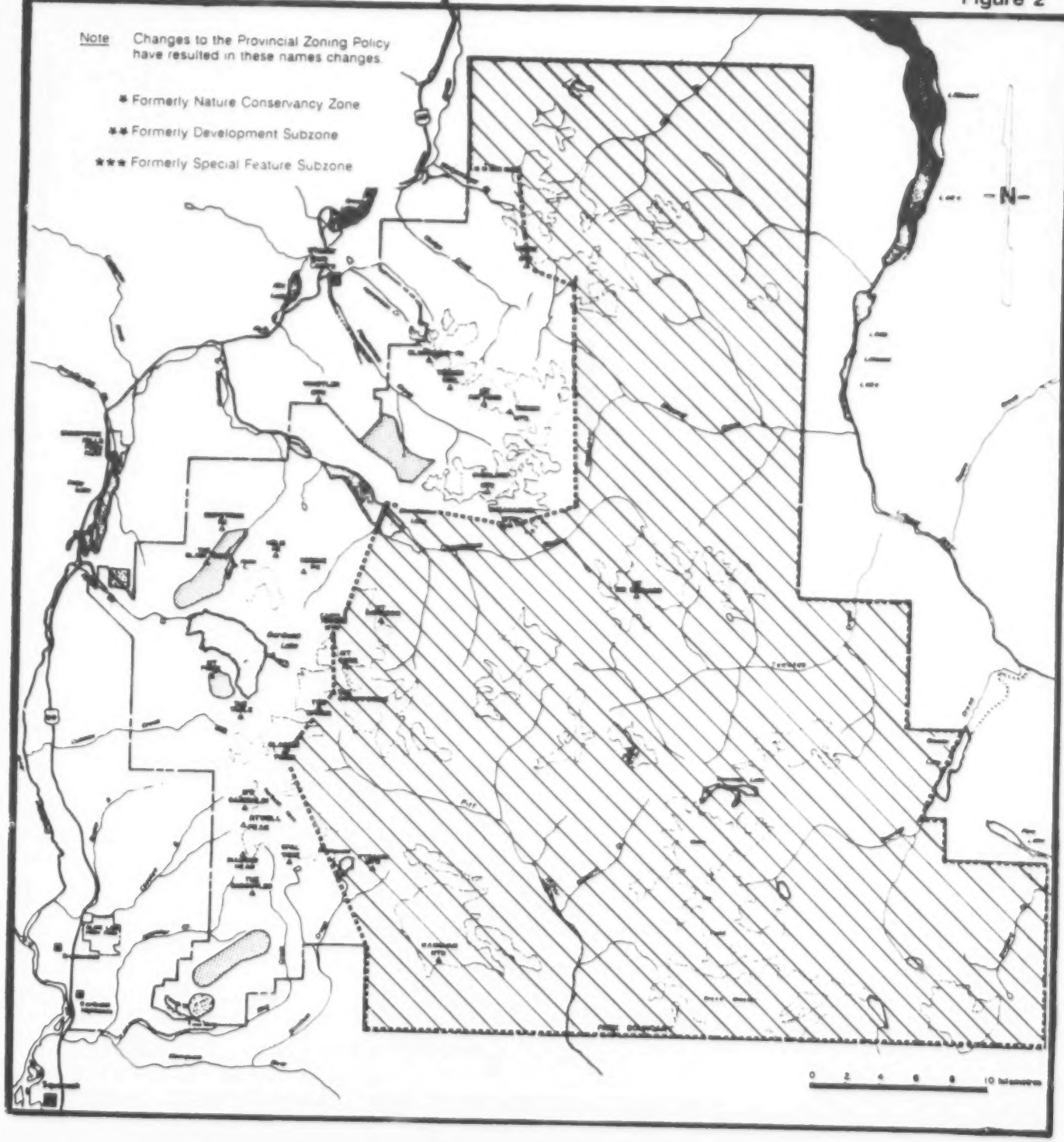
Figure 2

Note Changes to the Provincial Zoning Policy have resulted in these names changes.

* Formerly Nature Conservancy Zone

** Formerly Development Subzone

*** Formerly Special Feature Subzone



ISSUE: LEGISLATING BOUNDARY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

This issue was accepted by most in principle; however, many felt that a review of the entire park boundary should be done first. Those opposed to the boundary review recognize the awkwardness of a straight line boundary but are concerned about the potential to reduce the park size under such a review. There was little support to consider any changes in the boundary that would require a deletion.

ANALYSIS

Much of the reluctancy to fully support legislating the boundary stems from the concerns that once legislated it would be difficult to change and if good proposals to change the boundaries were brought forward in the future, they could not be implemented.

However, deletions to legislated parks have successfully occurred through an Act of the Legislature when it was determined that these changes have been in the best interest of the park system and society.

As park additions have been made and will continue to be made without having to consider park deletions in exchange, it would be prudent to continue to expand wilderness opportunities in this manner without jeopardizing the existing land base of the park.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- As indicated in the first draft, the boundary should be legislated to assure the public that careful consideration will be given if the boundary is to be adjusted.

* The boundary of the park has been legislated with the exception of the Blackcomb Glacier. This area has been established as a separate provincial park to facilitate its future deletion if required for ski development.

ISSUE: PROPOSED ADDITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The six additional study areas* (Figure 3) of the first draft were supported by most people and in addition, numerous others were suggested. These included Pinecone Lake, Callaghan Lake, the Cheakamus River west of the park boundary, Alice Ridge and Brohm Ridge. Several ministries had serious concerns about the impact of these additions on their mandates.

ANALYSIS

Several of the proposals including Lizzie/Rogers Creek, Callaghan Lake and Pinecone Lake are physically too far removed from Garibaldi Park to be considered as additions; however, the various submissions supporting these proposals have provided rationale for further study as potential individual parks.

Although Alice Ridge and Brohm Ridge were once included in the park and contain significant natural features, they are currently invaluable in providing a wide range of outdoor recreation including snowmobiling, hunting and horseback riding that would be incompatible in the park.

Lack of provincially significant park features in the Cheakamus River proposal combined with the initiatives of the Ministry of Forests to establish a demonstration forest here makes this area a poor candidate to study as an addition to Garibaldi Park.

The addition of Glacier Lake and Fire Lake has been considered in the past but existing commitments of the forest and mining resources, particularly at Fire Lake, preclude considering adding these areas at this time.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- The Mount Currie and Billy Goat Creek proposals will be studied as potential additions to Garibaldi Park.
- Lizzie/Rogers Creek, Callaghan Lake and Pinecone Lake will be reviewed as park study areas independent of Garibaldi Park.
- Upon expiry of the resource commitments, the proposed addition at Glacier and Fire Lakes will be reviewed.
- The Cheakamus River proposal should be part of the Ministry of Forests comprehensive program for a demonstration forest.

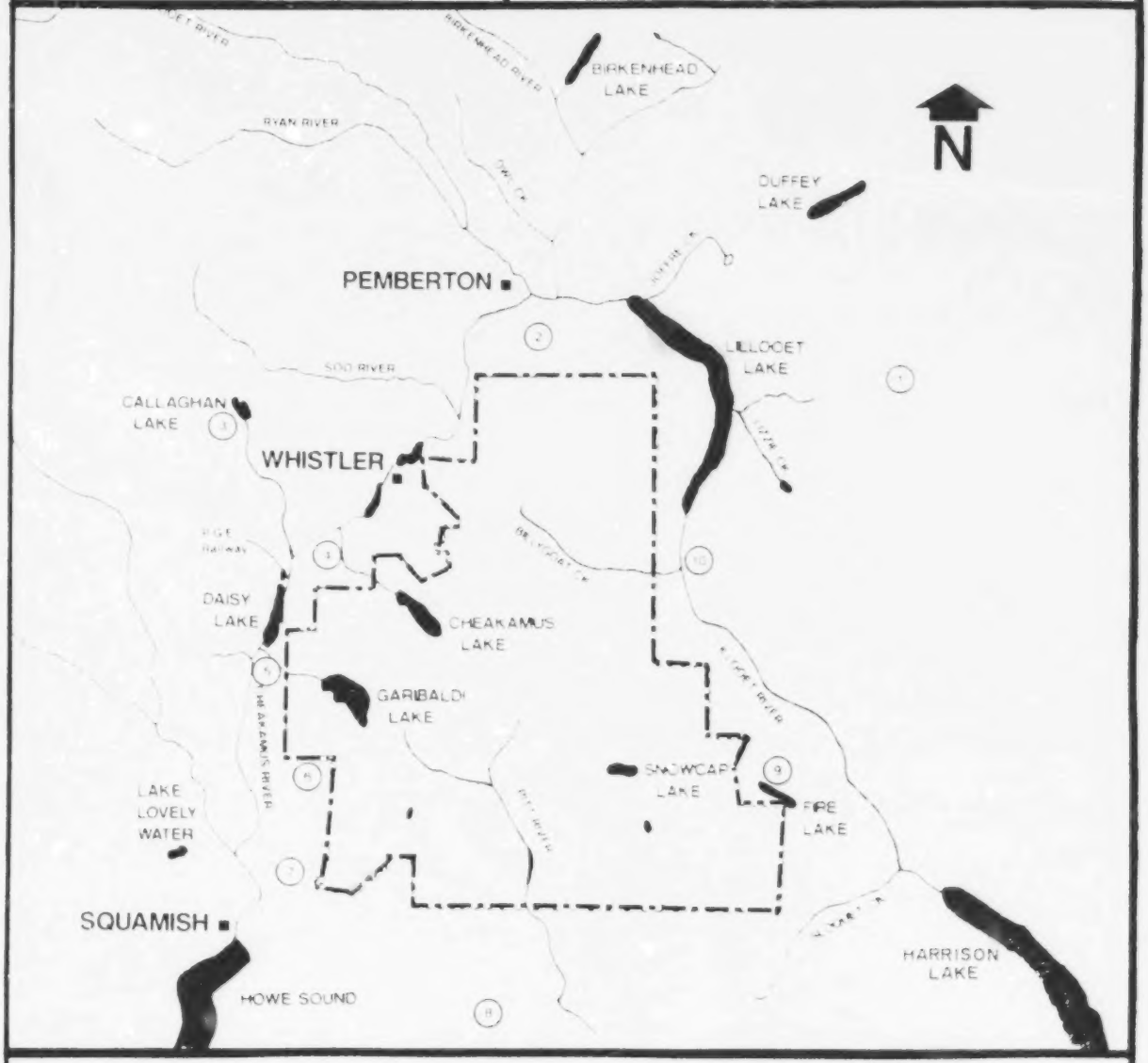
* Two proposed study areas - Rubble Creek and Diamond Head have already been added to the park.

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

SCALE 1:600,000 m

MAJOR PROPOSED ADDITIONS

Figure 3



1. Rogers/Lizzie Creek
2. Mount Currie
3. Callaghan Lake
4. Cheakamus River
5. Hubble Creek ★
6. Brohm/Alice Ridge
7. Diamond Head Reserve ★
8. Pinecone Lake
9. Glacier/Fire Lake
13. Billy Goat Creek

★ Recently added to the park

ISSUE: PROPOSED AREA #3 DELETION - BLACKCOMB MOUNTAIN EXPANSION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

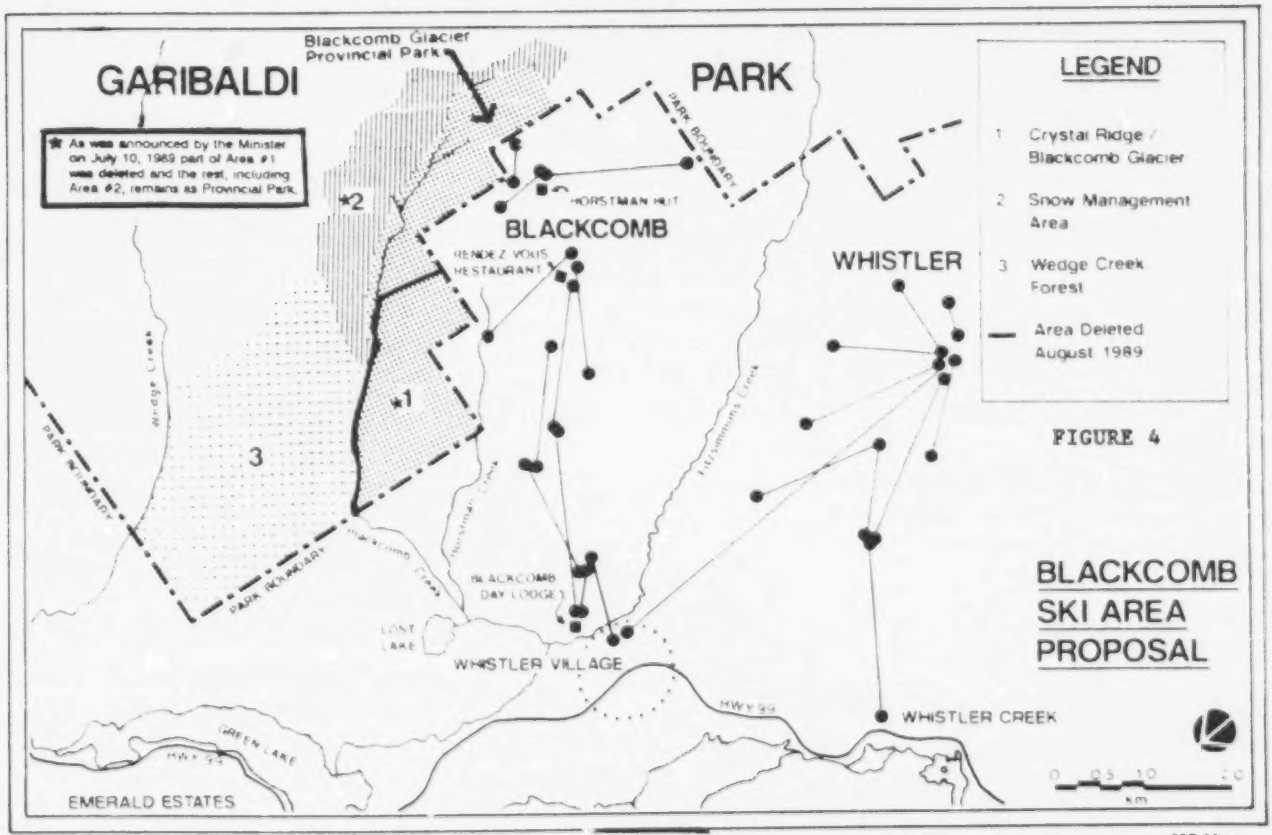
The main deletion proposal, Area #3 (south slope of Wedge Creek) suggested by Blackcomb Mountain was opposed by most people; however, a number felt it was premature to consider a deletion at this time but the door should not be closed.

ANALYSIS

As there is very little known about Area #3 concerning ski area potential,park features and recreation potential, it is difficult to assess the opportunities and constraints of the proposal. A comprehensive study and public review is needed.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- The proposal area is be included in the legislated boundary of the park and made available for environmental studies to assess natural features for recreation potential, including alpine skiing.
- As with any proposed deletions, a public review will be conducted in the future should this proposal be made.



ISSUE: LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Although most people supported the modest level of proposed development, there were concerns that it would be insufficient to meet public demand or enhance local tourism. One major proposal, the Spearhead trail loop received mixed support with many concerned about the safety of the route and the logistics of a hut system along the trail.

The proposal to phase out the Sphinx and Sentinel huts was opposed by many ski tourers who felt they were very important for emergency shelters given the popularity of the Garibaldi Neve Traverse.

ANALYSIS

Balancing the level of development and the level of conservation is one of the most difficult tasks of the plan. Although many more people will want to use the park and tourism would be enhanced, the park development must reflect the wilderness emphasis of the park role. Garibaldi Park's greatest needs are for development and services that reduce visitor impact and better utilize the existing trail system.

Public comments on the Spearhead Trail have brought up a number of issues that should be fully addressed before the route is developed.

The Sphinx and Sentinel huts while unnecessary for backcountry travel are important as emergency shelters particularly for the Garibaldi Neve which is often used by novice backcountry skiers.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- All existing designated park trails are to be upgraded.
- The Spearhead route will be studied in detail to determine the best option for development.
- The Sphinx and Sentinel huts will be retained.
- Additional trail opportunities will be developed along the western boundary of the park to complement Whistler.

ISSUE: MOUNTAIN BIKE OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Very strong support was expressed in favour of removing mountain bikes from the park for reasons of safety and protection of trails from erosion. Many people felt that the Diamond Head area was the only existing trail where mountain bikes could be accommodated safely. Avid mountain bikers contend that a bike access into the park for the Whistler area should be provided.

All who commented on mountain bikes agreed that a trail etiquette education program for both hikers and bikers is needed.

ANALYSIS

The criteria for acceptable mountain bike opportunities and the need for trail etiquette education programs are important aspects of this issue that were identified and will contribute to a resolution.

Unfortunately there are only a few opportunities in the park to accommodate mountain bikes that would be safe and have little impact on park resources.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- The Diamond Head road will continue to be used for mountain bike access not only to Red Heather Ridge as originally proposed, but also to Elfin Lakes.
- A mountain bike trail should be built on the south side of the Cheakamus River in concert with outdoor recreation groups and the Ministry of Forests.
- BC Parks will participate with groups and other agencies in a trail etiquette education program.
- The development of mountain bike opportunities will be encouraged in the Soo Provincial Forest and the ski resorts.

ISSUE: HELI-SKIING

PUBLIC COMMENTS

With the exception of those wishing to expand tourism opportunities, most people supported the proposed phasing out of heli-skiing. There were also some concerns and opposition to studying other areas of the park for heli-skiing and expanding these opportunities.

Those wishing to expand tourism opportunities contend that heli-skiing in the Spearhead Range is vital and essential for the marketing of skiing in the Whistler area and that it can be compatible with other uses. Some ski tourers felt they could tolerate heli-skiing provided it was controlled and did not expand while others felt mechanized access should not be provided in the park.

ANALYSIS

It is reasonable to discontinue or prohibit mechanized access in areas that impact park features and visitors; however, it appears that in the Spearhead Range there is potential for heli-skiers and tour skiers to enjoy the area with minimal impact given some guidelines and mutual co-operation.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- Heli-skiing will continue and be restricted to the existing permit area.

ISSUE: AIRCRAFT ACCESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most people supported the proposal to review aircraft regulations and many suggested a ban on aircraft overflights and landings. A few responses were received from the aircraft operators in the park advocating the current status quo for the benefit of seniors and the disabled.

ANALYSIS

The control of aircraft over the park would significantly enhance wilderness opportunities but it appears that given existing federal regulations, there is little opportunity to manage aircraft in the park on a regulatory basis. As most of the air traffic is commercial and there are only a few commercial operators, there is the possibility of reducing the impact of aircraft through consultation and co-operation with the commercial operators.

PLAN RECOMMENDATION

- General aviation, landings and sightseeing by aircraft will be managed for minimum impact on park visitors and wildlife through an aviation management plan*. The plan will provide guidance on minimum altitude of flights and will restrict landings.

* The aviation management plan has been developed and is being implemented.

MAIN PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Federation of Mountain Clubs
Whistler Air Services Ltd.
Bicycling Association of BC
Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association
Varsity Outdoor Club
British Columbia Mountaineering Club
Alpine Club of Canada
Vancouver Natural History Society
North Shore Hikers
Resort Municipality of Whistler
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ministry of Forests
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
BC Wildlife Federation
Corporate Helicopters
The BC Aviation Council
Vancouver Helicopters
Blackcomb Skiing Enterprises Limited
Tyax Heli-Skiing
Whistler Heli-Skiing
Mountain Equipment Co-Op.
Association of Canadian Mountain Guides
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
North Vancouver Recreation Commission Outdoors Club
Ministry of Environment

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix V
Backcountry Park Attendance

BC Parks

APPENDIX V

BACKCOUNTRY PARK ATTENDANCE

COMPARISON 1989

PROVINCIAL PARK	DAY USE (Party)	CAMPING (Party)
Garibaldi Provincial Park	20,727	3,634
Mount Robson Provincial Park	6,592	2,949
Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park	12,398	2,262
Wells Gray Provincial Park	2,441	1,329

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

Appendix VI
News Release

BC Parks

Province of
British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE

Ministry of Parks
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Aug. 31, 1990

Garibaldi Provincial Park Master Plan Released

VICTORIA — A master plan balancing recreation and conservation in Garibaldi Provincial Park, 97 kilometres north of Vancouver, was released today by Parks Minister Ivan Messmer.

"The recommendations in the master plan conform to our main policy of balancing the needs of the park visitors with the need to conserve the environment," Messmer said. The master plan serves long-term management strategy for a provincial park or recreation area. It serves as a blueprint for protecting and preserving natural resources of a park.

The Garibaldi plan recommendations would:

- increase the area designated as wilderness;
- improve exisiting trails;
- build a new trail from Cheakamus Lake to Singing Pass;
- develop another trail with the cooperation of Whistler Ski Resort from Musical Bumps to Singing Pass;
- install signs on winter access trails to Black Tusk, Singing Pass and Cheakamus Lake;
- build a mountain bike trail;
- construct an interpretive display at Diamond Head Chalet; and
- develop wilderness campsites at Mamquam Lake and Helm Lake.

"More than 850 people attended a series of meetings and 3,000 submissions were made during the three-year study process that led to development of this plan," the parks minister said.

(over)

As a result of the planning process, the park boundaries were recently enshrined in legislation. Public discussions of future ski area proposals, which may involve boundary changes, will occur when proposals are made.

B.C.'s 390 provincial parks cover six per cent of the province. Garibaldi, the sixth largest provincial park, is one of the most heavily used backcountry parks in the province. Last year 45,000 people visited Garibaldi Park.

Detailed copies of the master plan will be available at BC Parks offices in Squamish and North Vancouver, and at public libraries this fall.

- 30 -

Contact Ed Wall 356-7045

Garibaldi Provincial Park

MASTER PLAN

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1975, 1978 Goat Surveys of Garibaldi Park

1979 A Concept for Garibaldi Park - North

1980 Black Tusk 1980

1982 Natural Regions and Regional Landscapes for British Columbia's Park System

1983 Draft Master Plan for Garibaldi East

1984 Cultural History Themes of Garibaldi Provincial Park, Black Tusk and Diamond Head

1986 Garibaldi Provincial Park Visitor Satisfaction Survey Results, 1986

1987 Natural History Themes of Garibaldi Provincial Park

1987 Garibaldi Provincial Park Visitor Satisfaction Survey Results, 1987

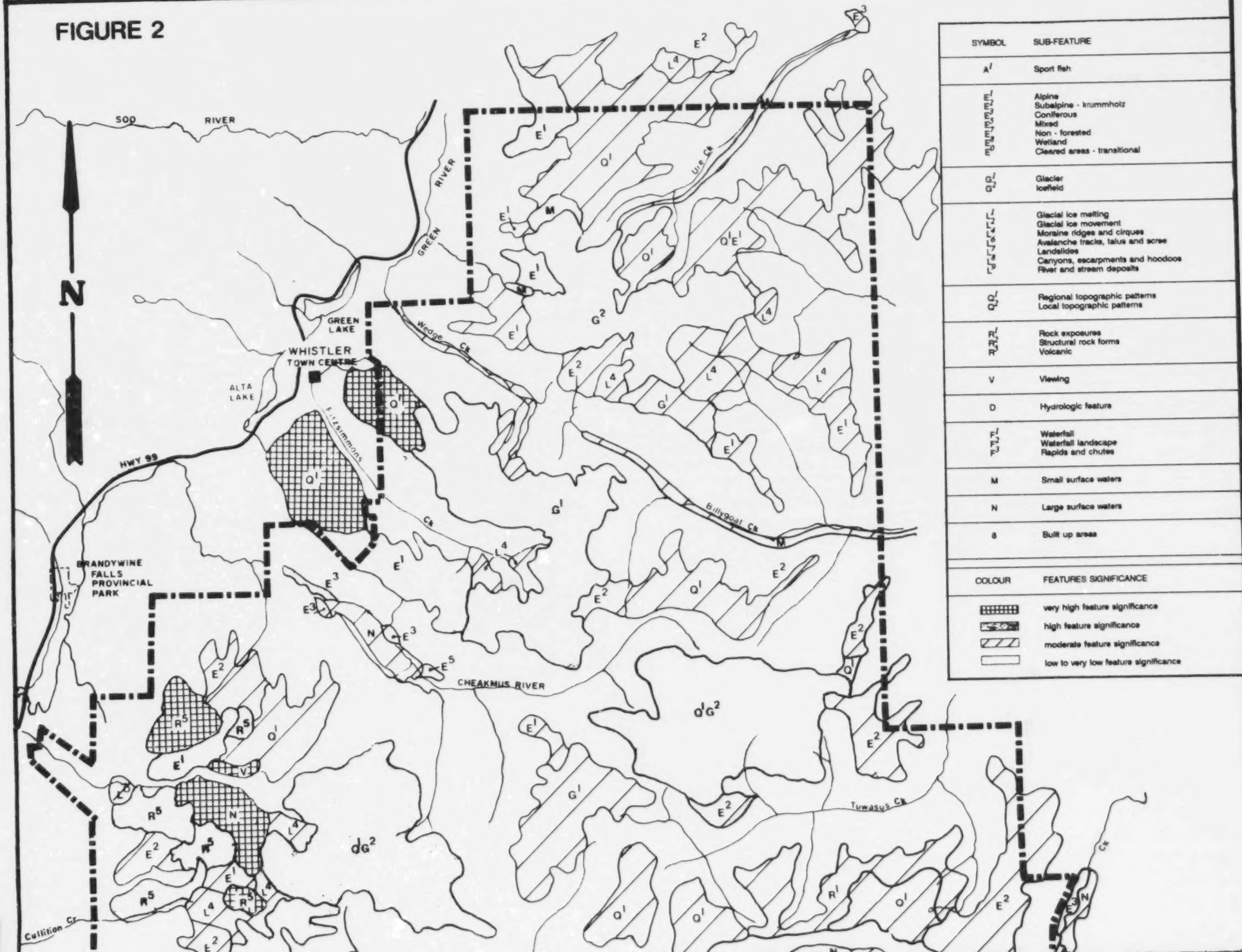
1987 Squamish-Lillooet Sub-Regional Systems Plan

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

0 2 4 6 8 10km

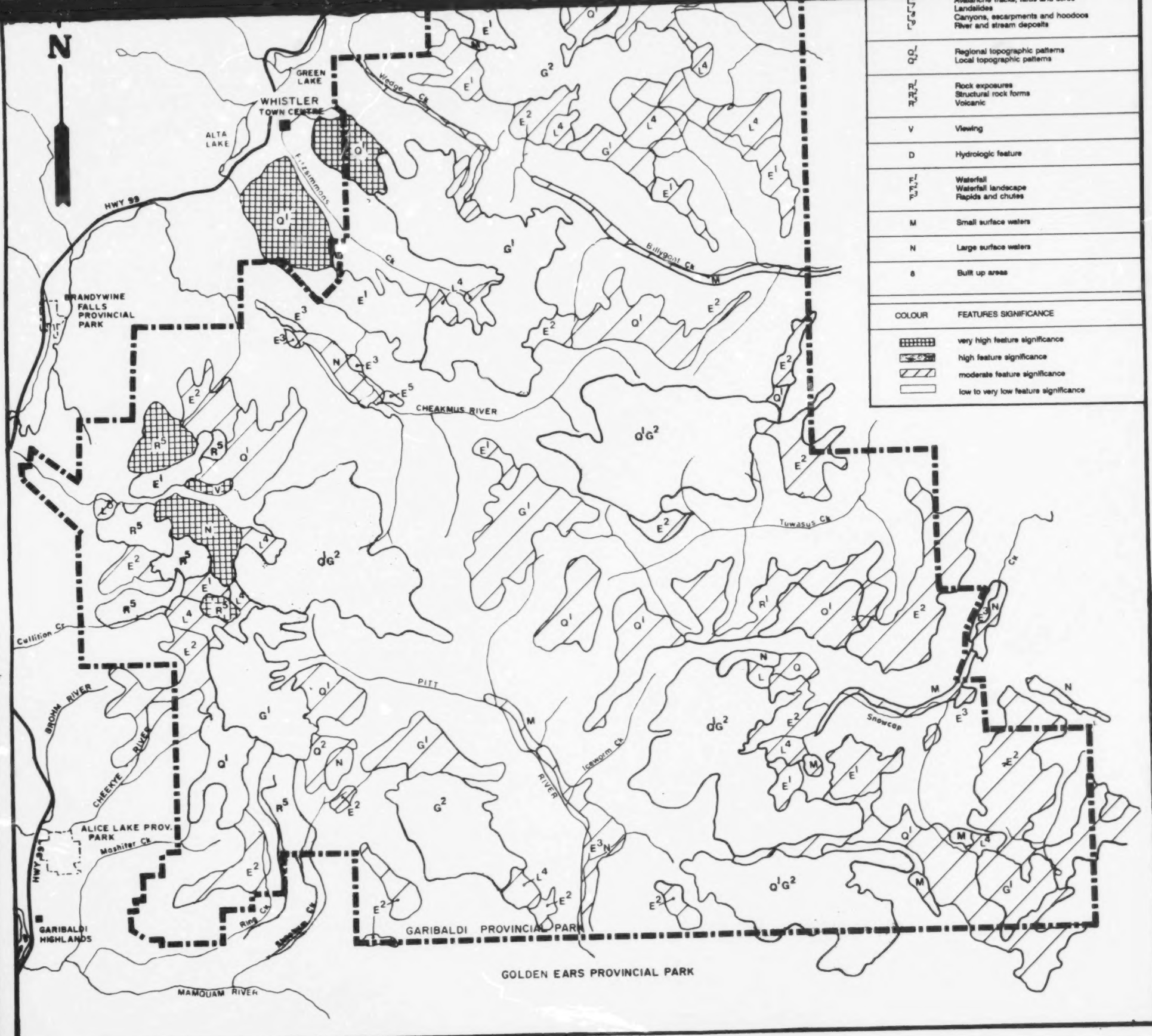
OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES

FIGURE 2



SYMBOL	SUB-FEATURE
A'	Sport fish
	Alpine Subalpine - krummholz Coniferous Mixed Non - forested Wetland Cleared areas - transitional
	Glacier Icefield
	Glacial ice melting Glacial ice movement Moraine ridges and cirques Avalanche tracks, talus and scree Landslides Canyons, escarpments and hoodoos River and stream deposits
	Regional topographic patterns Local topographic patterns
	Rock exposures Structural rock forms Volcanic
V	Viewing
D	Hydrologic feature
	Waterfall Waterfall landscape Rapids and chutes
M	Small surface waters
N	Large surface waters
s	Built up areas

COLOUR	FEATURES SIGNIFICANCE
	very high feature significance
	high feature significance
	moderate feature significance
	low to very low feature significance


N
GREEN LAKE
WHISTLER TOWN CENTRE
ALTA LAKE
Wedge Ck
Fitzsimmons Ck
Billygoat Ck
HWY 99
BRANDYWINE FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK
CHEAKAMUS RIVER
Tuwasus Ck
Callition Ck
BROHM RIVER
CHEEKYE RIVER
PITT RIVER
Icewurm Ck
Snowcap
ALICE LAKE PROV. PARK
Mashiter Ck
HWY 99
GARIBALDI HIGHLANDS
Ring Ck
Rubble Ck
GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK
GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK
MAMQUAM RIVER
Landslides
Canyons, escarpments and hoodoos
River and stream deposits
Regional topographic patterns
Local topographic patterns
Rock exposures
Structural rock forms
Volcanic
Viewing
Hydrologic feature
Waterfall
Waterfall landscape
Rapids and chutes
Small surface waters
Large surface waters
Built up areas
COLOUR
FEATURES SIGNIFICANCE
very high feature significance
high feature significance
moderate feature significance
low to very low feature significance